HISTORY STORIES OF OTHER LANDS

BOOK FOUR : 1066 - 1485

LORD AND VASSAL

ROW, PETERSON & COMPANY



THE FIRST PRINCE OF WALES

From an original painting by John H. F. Bacon, A.R.A.

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HISTORY STORIES OF OTHER LANDS

LORD AND VASSAL

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PREFACE

The aim of this series is to provide some facts of British history not usually given in elementary schoolbooks, together with some broad outlines of the European history of which British history and our own to an extent form a part. When this larger background is sketched in, the great events of American history are seen in their true relation and assume a new significance. The historic sense is enriched when such movements as the Crusades or the Renaissance are exhibited in their wider aspects — as reaching our shores, even though remotely, like the tides from afar.

The first two books of the series consist of simple stories of all time drawn from ancient history. The later volumes deal each with a definite period. British history receives a large share of space, because of its close relationship to our own, but the narrative pauses from time to time to tell of what was happening elsewhere, especially where the course of events across the Channel influenced or was influenced by what was happening in Britain.

In addition to a great number of drawings of historical objects, etc., and pictures of persons and places of note, the colored illustrations provide

reproductions of famous historical paintings in the galleries of Great Britain and the Continent, heretofore not available for school use in this country.

Maps and pictorial time charts, designed to help the pupils to fix the time- and place-relations, by appealing to the visual memory, have been placed for convenience of reference in the appendix by themselves.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
THE NORMANS	
Before the Normans	13
The Sea Kings	14
Rollo and his Men	21
THE NORMAN CONQUEST	
Harold's Oath	23
The Battle of Hastings	26
Completion of the Conquest	30
Hereward	33
Results of the Conquest	35
THE EMPIRE AND THE CHURCH	
The Holy Roman Empire	41
The Two Swords	44
THE STORY OF HENRY THE SECOND	
Henry's Title and Character	53
Henry's Work for England	56
Thomas Becket	61
Becket Quarrels with Henry	64
The Council of Northampton	66
The End of Becket	69
Henry's Last Years	71
THE CRUSADES	
What the Crusades were	77
The First Crusade	79
The Knights of the Cross	86
The Third Crusade	90
Richard's Adventures and Death	91
Later Crusades	94
KING JOHN AND THE GREAT CHARTER	
Signing of the Charter	101
Stephen Langton	104
Last Days of King John	107
FRIAR, SCHOLAR, AND BUILDER	
St. Francis	111
Roger Bacon	115
The Masons	117

EARL SIMON OF MONTFORT
Governor of Gascony - - - - - - - - - - 122
The Provisions of Oxford - - - - - - - - 126
Simon Against the King - - - - - - - - 128
The End of Simon - - - - - - - - - - 133

THE STORY OF EDWARD THE FIRST
Edward's Early Years - - - - - - - - - 137
Edward Conquers Wales - - - - - - - - 141
Edward Invades Scotland - - - - - - - - 144
Sir William Wallace - - - - - - - - - 147
Edward Loses Scotland - - - - - - - - 152
Edward's Work for England - - - - - - - 155

LEAGUES OF FREEMEN
The Easterlings - - - - - - - - - - 157
The Swiss - - - - - - - - - - - 162

TWO FAMOUS TRAVELERS
Marco Polo - - - - - - - - - - - 170
Dante - - - - - - - - - - - - 174

THE HUNDRED YEARS' WAR
The Beginning of the War - - - - - - - - 179
The Battle of Crécy. - - - - - - - - - 182
The Citizens of Calais - - - - - - - - 187
Poictiers and Agincourt - - - - - - - - 190
Joan of Arc - - - - - - - - - - 196
The State of France - - - - - - - - - 204

THE BLACK DEATH AND THE STATE OF ENGLAND
The Black Death - - - - - - - - - - 207
Wat Tyler's Rebellion - - - - - - - - - 210
The State of England - - - - - - - - - 213
Chaucer and other Writers - - - - - - - - 220

CITIES OF ITALY
Old Rome made New - - - - - - - - - 224
The Queen of the Adriatic - - - - - - - - 227

THE WARS OF THE ROSES
The Cause of the War - - - - - - - - - 233
The Earl of Warwick - - - - - - - - - 236
The End of the War - - - - - - - - - 240
The Guns of Barnet - - - - - - - - - 244

THE FALL OF CONSTANTINOPLE - - - - - - - - 248

APPENDICES: Maps, Tables, Pictorial Time Charts - - 253

COLORED PLATES

Facing page

1. The First Prince of Wales Painted by John H. F. Bacon, A.R.A. - - - *Frontispiece*

The story is told that Edward I announced to his Welsh subjects that he would give them a native prince who could speak not a word of English. Summoning them to Carnarvon Castle he presented his infant son who had just been born within the castle. The picture shows the future Prince of Wales in his father's arms being acclaimed by the Welsh. Behind King Edward the sword and helmet of state are borne by officers of the court, while at the side is the little prince's Welsh nurse. (See page 144.)

2. The Battle of Hastings - - - - - - 18

Reproduced (on reduced scale) from a copy of a portion of the Bayeux Tapestry

"This venerable relic [the Bayeux Tapestry] consists of a band of linen, 231 feet long and 20 inches wide, now light brown with age, on which have been worked with a needle, in worsteds of eight colors, scenes representing the conquest of England by the Normans. Of these scenes there are seventy-two, beginning with Harold's visit to Bosham on his way to Normandy, and ending with the flight of the English from the battle of Hastings, though the actual end of the strip has perished. Along the top and bottom run decorative borders with figures of animals", and the like. The part here reproduced shows the Norman cavalry attacking the English shield wall. Notice that different colors are used to show distance: thus the off leg of the brown horse is blue.

Facing page

3. William II Building the Tower of London

Painted by G. Goldsborough Anderson 50

Reproduced from the Panel in the Royal Exchange, London, by permission of the Artist and the Gresham Committee

William, with his lords and men-at-arms, has come to inspect the building of the Tower, and is listening to the Bishop of Rochester, architect of the great work, who is explaining the plans.

4. The Vigil - - Painted by John Pettie, R.A. 77

Reproduced from the Picture in the Tate Gallery, London

The night before his admission to the order of knighthood, the novice kept watch over his arms before the altar. Later, after receiving the sacrament, he handed his sword to the priest, who laid it on the altar, blessed and returned it. Then followed the vows and ceremony of dubbing the new knight.

5. St. Louis a Prisoner in the Hands of the Saracens Painted by Cabanel 98

Reproduced from the Mural Panel in the Panthéon, Paris

Louis was about to regain his liberty from the Sultan in exchange for the surrender of Damietta, when the Sultan was murdered by his emirs. In the picture Louis is shown, a prisoner within his own tent, receiving the leaders of the emirs, one of whom, kneeling before the royal captive, presents to him the arms of the murdered Sultan. Louis is attended by the aged Patriarch of Jerusalem, and behind him is his friend Joinville, who has given us a lifelike picture of Louis in his Chronicles of the Crusades.

6. The Last March of Edward I

Painted by W. Bell Scott, H.R.S.A. 131

Reproduced by permission of the Owner of the Picture

Too weak to ride, but refusing to halt, Edward was borne on a litter for the last few miles of his northward march. He died by the roadside, July 7th, 1307, his last moments gladdened by the sight of a blazing Scottish town.

Facing page

7. Tell and Gessler in the Marketplace at Altdorf Painted by Professor E. Stückleberg 164

Reproduced from a Copy of the Fresco in the Tell Chapel

Tell, his ordeal over, is clasping his little boy, who holds aloft the apple pierced by his father's arrow. Gessler demands of Tell the purpose of his other arrow, while beside the tyrant's horse stands a retainer, ready with chains for the bold peasant whose spirit he cannot bind. Behind is seen the red hat hoisted on its pole.

8. Dante and Beatrice

Painted by Henry Holiday 176

Reproduced by permission of the Corporation of Liverpool

Dante tells in one of his sonnets how Beatrice, having heard some false tale about him, one day coldly passed him in a street of Florence and would not see him. In the picture Beatrice with a flower in her hand is walking with two friends by the river Arno, which is spanned by a bridge covered with houses.

9. Morning of the Battle of Agincourt

Painted by Sir John Gilbert, R.A. 190

Reproduced by permission of the Corporation of London

Tired, hungry, and many of them ill, the English soldiers stand in the chill of the morning ready for battle. To cheer their spirits a priest holds aloft the sacred emblems. "They have said their prayers, and they stay for death" — so said the Constable of France: but it was for the French that death was in store.

10. The Relief of Orleans by Joan of Arc

Painted by Lenepveu 203

Reproduced from the Mural Panel in the Panthéon, Paris

Waving her white banner embroidered with the figure of Christ, the Maid in full armor is urging on her men to attack the fortress that guards the entrance to the bridge over the Loire. Meanwhile from the other side of the river the men of Orleans have sallied out onto the bridge, and the English in the fortress are caught as in a trap.

Facing page

11. CHAUCER AT THE COURT OF EDWARD III, READING HIS CANTERBURY TALES

Painted by Ford Madox Brown 218

Reproduced from the Picture in the Tate Gallery, London

Edward III and his court are gathered in the open air at Sheen Castle in Surrey to hear Chaucer read one of his Canterbury Tales. The white-haired king sits in the high chair. On his left is the Black Prince, ill and resting an elbow on his wife's knee, while at their feet is their little son (afterwards Richard II). On the old king's right, dressed in armor, is Chaucer's patron, John of Gaunt, whose son (afterwards Henry IV) is standing behind the book rest, holding his father's sword and shield. Seated on the rushes in the bottom corner, Sir John Froissart is taking notes for his "Chronicles", and beside him is John Gower, the poet.

12. THE TRAINED BANDS MARCHING TO THE SUPPORT of EDWARD IV (Battle of Barnet, 1471)

Painted by J. H. Amschewitz 230

Reproduced from the Panel in the Royal Exchange, London, by permission of the Artist and the Gresham Committee

Edward IV, accompanied by his prisoner Henry VI (on the white horse), is riding through the streets of the capital, conducted by the recorder of London bearing the sword of state. Before him is one of the guns which are to be used at Barnet. The royal standard waves beside him, while behind is his own banner, "the sun with rays".

LORD AND VASSAL

THE NORMANS

Before the Normans

The English nation was not made in a day. There was a long time of making ready, when peoples from beyond the seas came seeking homes in England, and, mingling with the folk already there, made the nation stronger and finer.

The Romans came and went, leaving the land to the Britons who had been there before them. Scarcely were the Romans gone when the Angles burst upon the country with fire and sword. They did not forsake the land when they had won it from the Britons, but gave it their own name, Angle-land or England.

After them came the Northmen or Danes, fierce sea rovers who swarmed across the sea year after year seeking plunder. They, too, sought to make a home there. The English

fought bravely for their new country, but in the end a Danish king sat on the throne of England, and Danes and Angles lived together as one people.

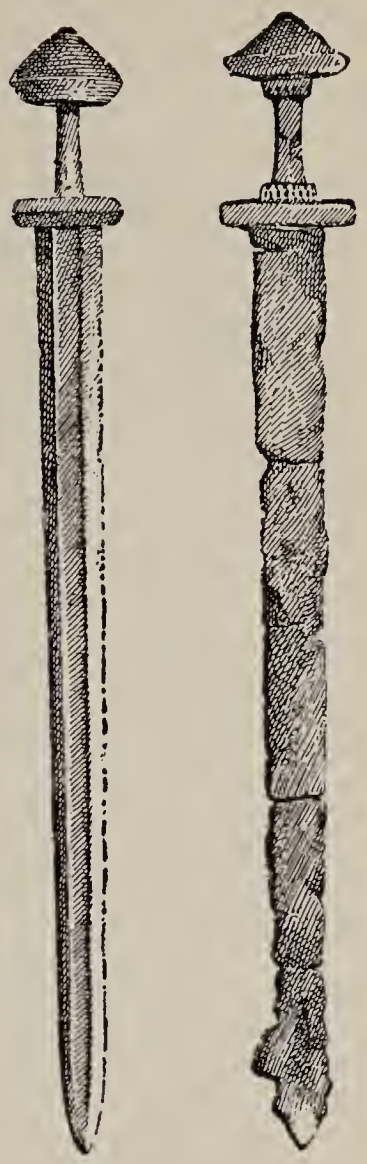
Only once more did strangers from overseas subdue the island. These strangers were the Normans. A haughty race, they were slow to mingle with the people they had conquered; but even they learned at last to be proud to bear the name of Englishmen.

The coming of the Normans marks the end of that first stage of English history when peoples from various lands were being mustered on English soil for the making of a new nation. It is here that we take up the story in this book; so let us first learn something of who the Normans were.

The Sea Kings

We see them first in their old home on the rugged coasts of Norway. The rocks that frown over the fiord are too hard for the mason's chisel, but the pine trees of the mountain are ready to the builder's hand. From these they made themselves goodly houses, where we may see them feasting with their friends.

The company is gathered in a long hall, lighted by the glare of a large fire which burns in the middle of the floor. The smoke, curling up through holes in the roof, has blackened the carved timbers with its soot, but the walls, hung with sword and helmet, are lit with the gleam of polished steel.

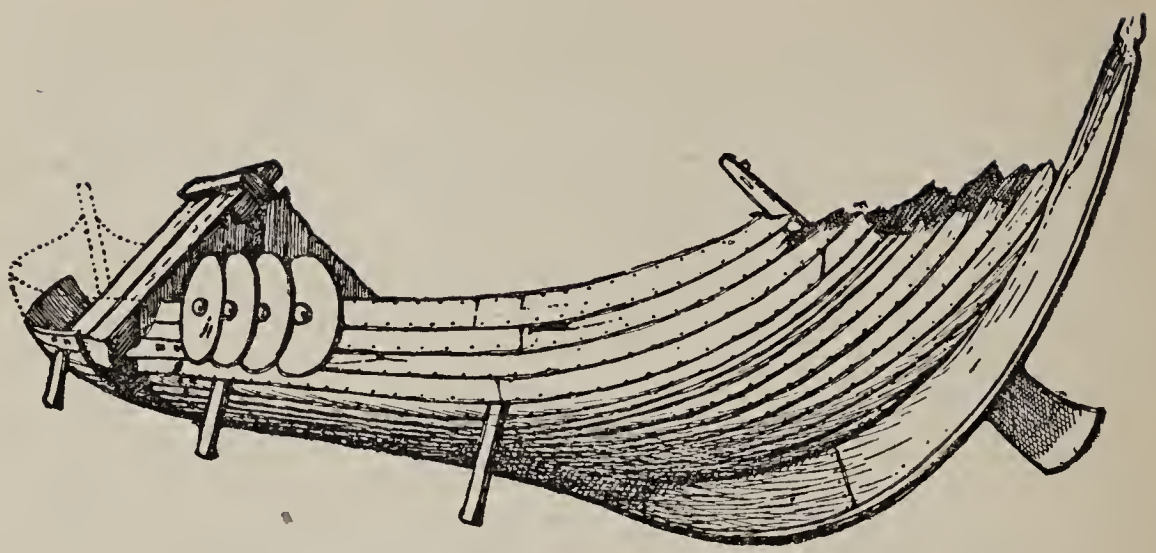


Viking Swords

1, Found at Ronsay, Orkney. 2, Found at Vik, Norway.

Mounted on a high seat is the master of the house, doing honor to the guests and strangers who sit on a bench opposite. Of the women some are busy with their sewing, while others are serving mead for the guests. All are listening to the words of an old man, who seems to be the guest of honor. He is repeating an old saga, which tells the deeds of heroes who went down to the sea in ships.

But if we would see these men at home, we must follow them to their ships, for their true home is the sea. The same forests that gave



Remains of Viking Ship found in Norway

the logs for their houses on land, furnished also the timbers for these sturdy ships.

Long and black, with a dragon's head in front and their sides hung with the round shields of the sea rovers, these ships look grim enough. With square sails set, or with the sweep of two-score oars, they steal down the long fiord. Once out on the open sea they steer by the stars. And if the mist of the northern seas hides the sky, they must take their chance, or perhaps let loose a raven, and follow its guidance to the nearest shore.

The most distant shores were visited by these daring sailors. They made new homes for themselves in Iceland, and that land of snow and volcanoes became in time the home of their greatest poets. They ventured farther and

made settlements on the cold shores of Greenland.

Farther still they sailed, and found a coast sloping to the south. This they followed for many leagues, till they came to an island at the mouth of a river. Here they landed and found a rich country where grapes grew in plenty; the woods were full of game, and the rivers of salmon.

The people of "Vineland", as the Northmen named it, came in boats made of skin, offering furs in exchange for weapons and cloth. But these friendly ways soon gave place to fighting and bloodshed, and the Northmen sailed away. Five hundred years were to pass before any ship from Europe was seen on that shore again; for the "Vineland" of the sea kings was the America which Columbus again discovered long afterwards.

The coasts where the ships of the Northmen swarmed were those where rich spoils were to be won. We learned in our last book how the Northmen poured into England and won a foothold there. Other lands suffered the same fate, and from all the churches of Western Europe arose the cry: "From the fury of the North-



A Sea-rover

men, O Lord, deliver us!" The Northmen were heathen, and wherever they appeared churches and monasteries were destroyed by fire.

A story is told of one of these pirates who sailed to Italy in search of adventure. Seeing a fine city he thought it must be Rome, whose fame had reached him in his northern home. Here surely must be wealth enough to make him rich for life. But how could a few ships' crews plunder a great city?

The wily leader hit upon a plan. He sent word to the city that the leader of the Northmen lay very ill and wished to be received into the Christian faith. This was welcome news to the bishop of the city. He gladly went on board the ship, where, with all fitting rites, the heathen pirate was admitted into the Christian church.

No sooner had the bishop returned to give



THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS

(Reduced facsimile of a portion of the Bayeux Tapestry)

thanks before the altar, than word came from the ship that the new convert had died: His last wish, they said, had been that he should be buried in a Christian church. This request the good bishop was well pleased to grant.

Next day, with slow steps, the Northmen bore their leader to the church. The service began, and the monks with bowed heads sang the sad funeral chant. Suddenly the coffin flew open and out sprang the pirate chief, no more dead than he was Christian.

In a moment his men locked the doors, whipped out their swords, and fell upon the helpless priests. They stripped them of their splendid robes and the church of its jewelled ornaments. Then, before the townsmen well knew what had happened, the pirates were on board their ships and rowing hard for the sea, making merry over their grim joke.

Rollo and his Men

Another story of the Northmen's rough and reckless fun is told of Rollo. He had won from Charles the Simple, King of France, a great part of the north of that kingdom. At last Charles saw that the only way of peace was to make Rollo duke over the lands he had won.

In return for these lands Rollo promised to defend the king.

As a pledge of his promise Rollo was called upon to kiss the king's foot. But the proud spirit of the Northman could not brook this humble duty; so he called one of his men to do it for him.

Rollo's man liked the duty no more than his chief. He would not stoop to kiss the king's foot, but lifted it with such a jerk that poor Charles did a back somersault.

Such were the men who in the tenth century made themselves masters in so many lands. Their own country was too narrow for them, and its many capes and promontories seemed to point the way to the sea. Northmen or Danes, they were all of one race; but wherever they settled they took on the manners of the people they lived among.

Rollo's men turned Christian and learned to speak the French tongue. They were no longer Northmen but Normans, and the knights of Normandy were the finest knights in Europe. Some of them went adventuring into Sicily, where they set up a Norman kingdom. One of the later Dukes of Normandy was William the Conqueror, who won the throne of England.

THE NORMAN CONQUEST

Harold's Oath

In the hall of a Norman castle, one day, there were met together many noble warriors and proud churchmen. Among the company were two men who seemed to be of more importance than the rest, for all eyes were bent on them.

One was a tall, dark man, whose strong frame and stern look marked him out as a leader of men. The other also was tall and big, but his hair was fair and his eyes were blue; and, while his look was proud, there was something of discontent in it.

The dark man was William, Duke of Normandy; the fair man was Harold, Earl of Wessex. The former was head of a race of men descended from fierce Northmen who, under Rollo, had made a home for themselves in the north of France. The latter was the most powerful man in England.

At this time Harold was William's guest, or rather his prisoner. For, sailing down the English Channel, his vessel had been wrecked on the Norman shore, and William had taken him from the nobleman upon whose land he had been cast.



Harold swearing on the Relics. From the Bayeux Tapestry

Harold Sacramentum Fecit Willelmo Duci (Harold gave his oath to Duke William). He is represented as doing this by laying his hand upon a reliquary containing the bones of saints.

William was glad to get Harold into his power. Both these strong men were aiming at the crown of England, and William had made up his mind to gain Harold's support for himself, by fair means or foul. So he had gathered his chief men together, to hear Harold take an oath to him. In the middle of the hall was what appeared to be a table covered with a velvet cloth. By this Harold stood, and there, lifting up his right hand, he swore a solemn oath that he would be William's man, and help him to become King of England.

Instantly the cloth was removed, and Harold saw, not a table, but a chest with a glass top, within which lay holy relics of the saints. In the belief of the men of that time, Harold's

oath was made more solemn by being spoken above these relics.

Thus, English Harold, though wishing to be King of England himself, was tricked into promising to help a Norman to be king. How was it possible for either of these men to aim at the English crown?

The King of England at that time was Edward, the son of Ethelred, known from his pious life as Edward the Confessor. He was a good man, with a fine face and kingly manners, and was beloved by his people for his wise rule and his love of peace.

Edward had no children. The heir to the throne was a child Edgar, the Atheling, a grandson of Edmund Ironside, who had made so brave a stand against the Danish invaders. In those stirring times kingdoms needed at their head strong men, not boys.

Earl Harold was a strong man — a brave soldier who had showed some signs of having the qualities of a king. Thus, though he was not of royal blood, he was looked upon by many of the English as the fittest man to succeed Edward.

Duke William was also a strong man. From his youth up he had had to fight hard for his

dukedom; he had never lost a battle, and was famed as the greatest warrior in Europe.

King Edward had passed his childhood in Normandy, and loved the Norman people and their ways. He gathered Normans about him at his English Court, and once, when William came to visit him in England, Edward is said to have made a sort of promise that William should be king after him.

Now it will be seen why Duke William was so glad to get Earl Harold into his power and why he made him swear so solemn an oath.

The Battle of Hastings, 1066

Edward died, and the Council of Wise Men, the great national council of England, chose Harold to be their king. When the news reached Duke William, he was speechless with rage.

At once he resolved to win the crown of England by force of arms. First he sent messengers to Harold, demanding that he should keep his oath. But Harold replied that a forced oath was not binding, and that he had been chosen king by the votes of the Wise Men of England.

William then set about gathering together a huge army for the conquest of England. He



THE STATUE OF WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR AT FALAISE

sent word to the Pope how Harold had broken the oath taken so solemnly over holy relics, and asked his leave to punish so wicked a man. The Pope gave his consent, and sent him a banner which he had blessed.

William, having got together his army, with much labor built a fleet of ships to carry it to England. Meanwhile Harold was preparing to defend his kingdom.

Suddenly news came that an army had invaded the north of England. Tostig, one of Harold's brothers, had been banished from his English earldom because he ill-used his people. He had now returned to take revenge, bringing Harold Hardrada, the fierce King of Norway, to help him in battle.

Harold of England hurried northward with a small army, met the invaders at Stamford Bridge in Yorkshire, and defeated them in a great battle. Tostig and the King of Norway were both slain. They had come in three hundred ships; the remnant of their army returned in twenty-four.

While resting at York, Harold heard that William the Norman had landed on the south coast. Hurrying with all speed southward, collecting forces as he went, Harold came within

reach of his enemy a fortnight after the landing.

Against the advice of his friends, he decided at once to risk a battle. He drew up his army on the hill of Senlac, a few miles from Hastings, and there awaited the Norman attack.

Most of the English were foot soldiers. Those in the centre were armed with huge axes, while the wings were armed only with spears, clubs, or scythes. The Normans, on the other hand, were strong in horse soldiers, and had also some archers.

Again and again the Normans fell back before the terrible English battleaxes. William himself was struck from his horse, and a cry arose that he was slain. "I live!" he shouted, tearing off his helmet so that his men might see his face; "and by God's help will conquer yet!"

Presently he drew off part of his troops as if he meant to flee, and Harold's eager men, forgetting his order not to stir from their posts, poured down the hill in pursuit. Then the Normans turned around, and pressing firmly in good order up the hill smote down the broken ranks of the English.

Still a fierce fight was kept up at the top of



Norman Knight wearing a Coat of Chain Armor, with Steel Helmet and Nose-piece

the hill, where Harold and his faithful bodyguard wielded their deadly axes around their banner. William ordered his archers to shoot their arrows in the air, so that they might fall on the bare heads of the English. An arrow pierced Harold's eye, and as he tore it out he was struck to the ground by a Norman knight.

Over his dead body the fight raged on until not a man of his guards was left alive. Then darkness put an end to the battle. William had won his title of " the Conqueror ", and sat down to eat and drink among the dead.

Completion of the Conquest

The Normans won the battle of Hastings because they were better armed and better trained than the English, and because William

was a more skillful general than Harold. But the winning of this one battle did not give William the whole of England as his own.

At first the English, having no great and trusted leader now that Harold was dead, did little to oppose the Conqueror, who was crowned king at Westminster on Christmas Day. But when he returned to Normandy, to look after affairs there, his English subjects rose in rebellion in many parts of the country.

If they had joined together under one strong leader, they might perhaps have driven out the Normans. But their chief men were jealous of one another, and the men of the north would not help the men of the south.



Norman Follower

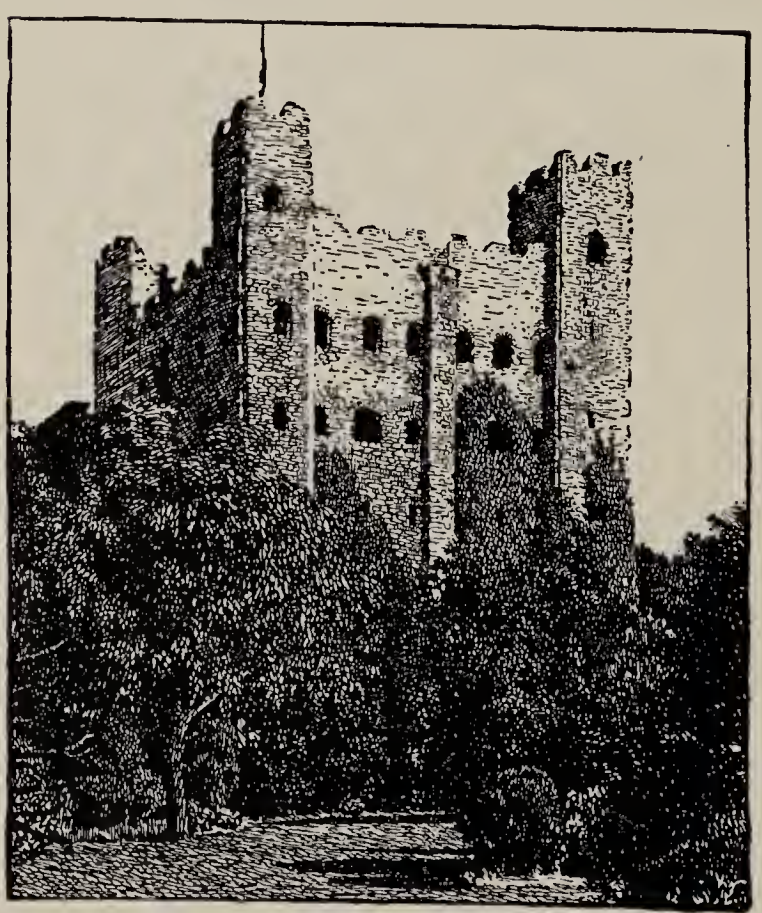
The men of Kent took arms against the cruel Odo, William's brother, who had been left to guard the kingdom. The men of Yorkshire sought help from the Danes against the Normans.

In the south-west, Har-

old's mother raised a rebellion against William, and the city of Exeter refused to own him as king.

When William had settled his business in Normandy, he returned to England and set about finishing his conquest.

He put down the men of Kent, then marched to the west, and took Exeter after a siege of nearly three weeks. He showed mercy to the brave defenders, but built a castle to keep them down in the future, and made them pay him large sums of money.



The Norman Keep, Rochester Castle

Then he marched northwards, and the northern earls gave in to him. But a year afterwards, help came from Denmark to the people of the north, and they broke out again in rebellion.

William

bribed the Danish leaders to desert the English. Then, in order to punish the rebels so fearfully that they would never dare to rise up again, he laid waste the north of England. Crops and cattle were destroyed, farms and all that belonged to them were burned. Hundreds of men, women, and children lost their homes and died of hunger. Some people kept themselves alive by eating horse flesh, some even ate the dead bodies of their fellow men, while others sold themselves as slaves to the Normans.

Thus a district which once had been fertile became a dreary waste. For many years afterwards the unploughed fields and the blackened remains of ruined homesteads told the tale of the Conqueror's cruelty.

Hereward

When William had put down the rebels in the north, almost all England was his. Only in one part of the country was a firm stand still made against him.

In the eastern counties there was a swampy district called the Isle of Ely, where a small spot of dry land rose above the rivers and fens

which shut it in. On this spot a bold Englishman named Hereward formed his camp.

Here for nearly a year a fierce band of Englishmen held out against the Normans. To the Camp of Refuge, as it was called, came many bold and desperate men who would not have the Normans for their masters.

They made their home in a monastery, where they kept their weapons hanging from the roof always ready for use.

William came up with an army, but at first he could not get within reach of the rebels, because of the water. So he began to build a great causeway of wood and stone, by which he might lead his men over the swamps.

Many stories are told of Hereward's deeds — how he went to the Norman camp, once dressed as a potter, another time as a fisherman, to find out all he could about his enemy.

At last, some of the monks, wishing to find favor with William, showed him a secret way into the Camp of Refuge. The Normans entered, slew many of the rebels, and took many prisoners.

Even then Hereward was not beaten, for he escaped to a ship which was kept ready for him close by. He sailed away, but came back

at times and made himself a terror to the Normans.

At last he was defeated or he gave himself up to William. Some stories say that he was taken into favor by William, who gave him lands, and took him to Normandy to help him in his French wars.

Results of the Conquest

William had shown himself strong enough to master the country: he now showed himself wise enough to govern it. In the first place, to prevent all disputes, he said that all the land of England was his, and he gave much of it to his Norman followers.

To keep down the people, he built many strong castles, such as the Tower of London, where soldiers were kept in readiness to put down any attempt at rebellion.

In order to make his hold on the country still more strong and firm, William bound the nation to himself by means of the feudal system. This was as follows:—

Every man who received land from the king had to do homage to him, that is, to swear to be his man and serve him in war with a

certain number of soldiers. Such a man was called a tenant-in-chief, and the land he held was called his fee or feud.

He might let out his land in portions to tenants of his own, who had to make to him the same promise that he had made to the king.

Thus in time of war the king would summon his tenants-in-chief; they would summon their tenants, and in this way a large army was brought together. Most of William's tenants-in-chief were Normans, upon whom he could depend to obey his call.

It was important for William to know all about the land which he had thus got. He therefore sent men into all parts of the country, to find out who the owners had been in the days of King Edward, who the present owners were, how much their holdings were worth, and what number of cattle and sheep they owned.

The answers to these and other questions were written in a book called Domesday Book, or book of judgment, which is still to be seen in London.

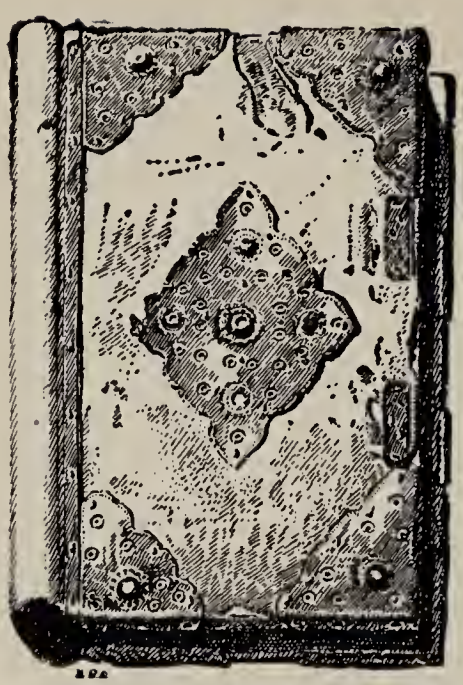
This enquiry offended the people, who said it was a shame for the king to set down in the book every yard of land and every cow or

pig they owned. But the book was of real value in helping William to govern in an orderly and thorough way.

In all towns and villages a bell called the curfew bell was to be rung at nightfall, when on every hearth the fire must be put out. This was a wise rule in days when houses were built of wood and stood so close together that, if fire broke out it was likely to spread till the whole town was ablaze.

Another act of William's caused great anger and had terrible results. William was fond of hunting, and marked off several wide districts where stags were kept for his sole pleasure. One of these districts was in Hampshire, and was called the New Forest. There people were turned out of their homes, and villages were destroyed in order that the land might be made into a hunting ground.

Severe laws were made, punishing very heavily any man who hunted in the king's grounds. Thus the king, in seeking his pleasure, caused misery to many people. In the course of time he brought misery on himself, too, for, before he died, a son and a grandson of his both met their deaths in the New Forest, most likely by the hands of angry men who



Domesday Book. From the original in the Public Record Office, London.

had lost their homes and lands when the forest was enclosed.

The Conqueror's son, William the Red,[1] who became king after him, was also murdered in the Forest, and the people said that these deaths in the Conqueror's family were God's punishment for his cruelty.

The Norman Conquest brought much distress on Englishmen. The Norman landowners treated very harshly those who were under them, and men who had once been free, with land of their own, now became bond servants on the land of others.

In the end, however, the Conquest was of the greatest benefit to England. Up to this time the country had not been really united. Parts of it had been ruled by great earls who were almost as powerful as the king, and this was not good for the well-being of the people.

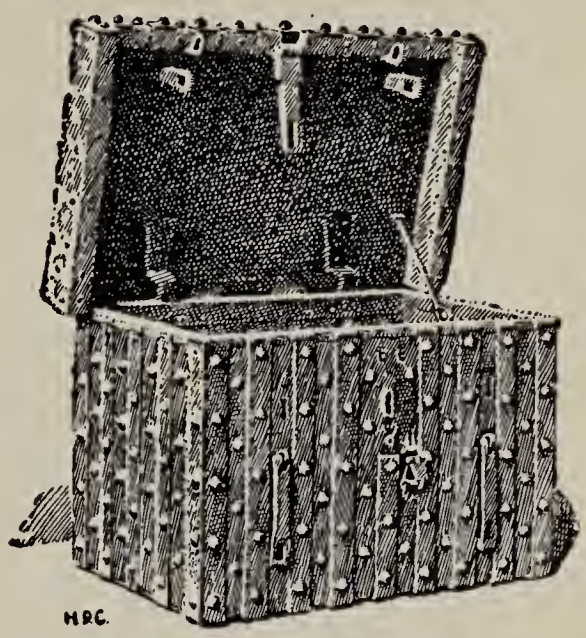
When William came, the power of the king greatly increased, and his rule, while hard and

[1] Rufus.

stern, was firm and rested on law. This was bound to have good results in time.

The coming of the Normans to England had other good results. England had not had much to do with the rest of Europe; and Englishmen, living in their snug little island, thought of nothing but their own concerns.

They did not learn the new things that were being learned by the rest of Europe. They were slow-going, backward in trade, in art, in knowledge; their manners were rough, and their buildings clumsy.



The Strong Box in which the Domesday Book used to be kept

When the Normans came, they brought with them improvements in all these things. They knew how to build; they were lively and dashing in manner; they loved art, and were more polite and "gentlemanly" than the English. In short, they woke up old England and gave new life to the nation.

Although at first they treated the English as a conquered race, the two peoples soon be-

came one. The Norman brightness and charm joined with the English solid strength, to form the mighty race which now covers and governs so great a part of the globe.

The Normans spoke a kind of French, and at first the Norman nobles and their English dependents could not understand one another. But by and by French words and forms were taken into the English language.

The rough old English speech was much improved by this mixture with the smoother French. The English language thus formed is now the finest language in the world, and is spoken by far more people than any other.



Silver Penny of William the Conqueror

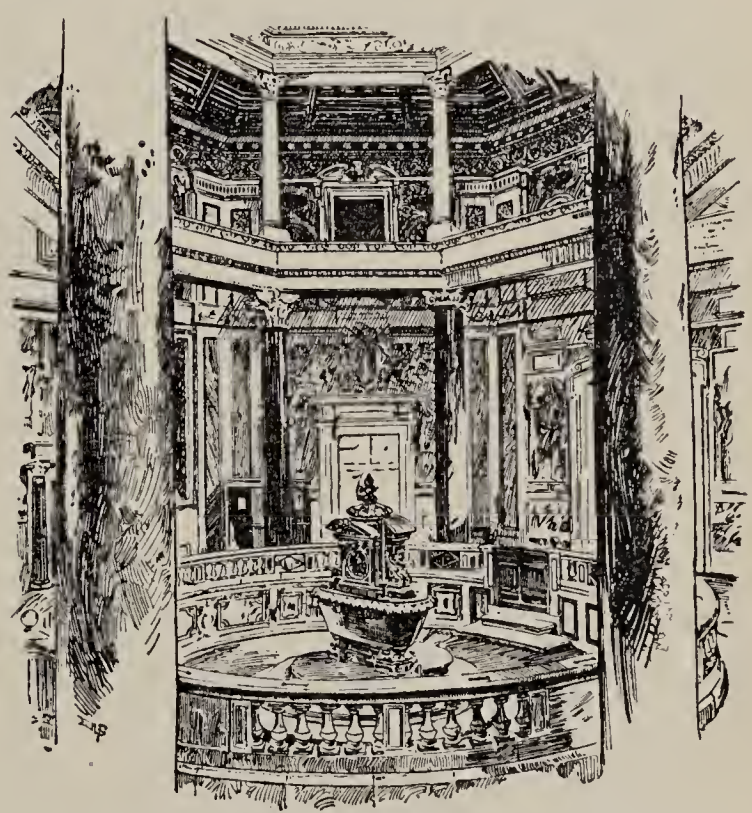
THE EMPIRE AND THE CHURCH

The Holy Roman Empire

While William was making himself master of England, in Italy one who was more than king was humbled to the dust. This was Henry IV, the Emperor.

To understand who the Emperor was, we must go back to the earlier days when Rome was mistress of the world.

When the new nations of the north poured into the Roman Empire, they thought it like a fairyland. The great cities with their noble buildings, the beautiful works of art, the fine roads binding land to land, the wise laws which all obeyed — these and a hundred



The Baptistery of S. Giovanni in Laterano, Rome, said to be the scene of the baptism of Constantine



Papal Insignia

other things filled them with wonder.

"Without doubt the Emperor is a god upon earth," one of them said; "and he who attacks him is guilty of his own blood!" The Roman power, they thought, must last forever, so when they set up kingdoms of their own, they looked up to the Emperor as ruler over all.

But the Roman power did not last forever. The Emperor went to live in a new capital which he had built for himself in the East, called Constantinople; and Rome was left with only half her former strength when she needed it all.

In the year 452, a host of warriors from Asia, called the Huns, poured into Italy. Their leader, Attila, has been called the "Scourge of God," and he boasted that where his horse's hoofs struck the ground, grass would grow no more.

But there was one man in Rome who was not afraid of Attila. This was the Bishop of Rome, Leo the Great. He went to meet Attila,

and by the power of his words overcame the heathen chief so that he turned back from Rome.

A few years later another heathen host, the Vandals, came over the sea to Rome, and again Leo pleaded with the destroyers to spare the city. They agreed to spare the lives of the people, but this time Rome was plundered, and for two weeks the city was in the hands of the robbers.

The people of Rome, who owed their lives to their bishop, looked up to him as their Father, or " Pope ". As the old power of the Roman state crumbled, the Roman Church remained. The missionaries who went to heathen England and Germany taught their new converts to obey the Church of Rome. And so the unruly people of the West were drawn together under the rule of the Church.

This rule, however, was not enough to keep order. When the Pope of Rome was hard pressed by his enemies, he called in the help of the King of the Franks, Charles the Great, whose kingdom extended over a great part of Western Europe; and so Charles became the champion of the Church.

At last, on Christmas Day in the year 800,

Charles was crowned Emperor of Rome by the Pope. The church of St. Peter rang with the shouts of the people. Once again there was a firm hand at Rome to rule the West. Indeed there were two hands — the Emperor's to rule the states, and the Pope's to rule the Church.

Thus was founded the Holy Roman Empire, which was to last for a thousand years. At first it did not look as if it would last. After the death of Charles the Great, the Empire was broken up among a number of kings, but in the end one of these, the King of Germany, won the right to be called Emperor, and to be crowned at Rome by the Pope.

The Two Swords

The Empire and the Church were regarded as the two powers which were set over all the other powers of Europe. Men spoke of them as the " two swords ", but when Church and State did not agree, the two swords might be crossed in strife.

It was thus that the Emperor Henry IV was brought low. At this time the Church was ruled by one of the greatest of the Popes, Hildebrand, the friend of William the Conqueror. Hildebrand set himself to make the Church



THE RUINS OF THE CASTLE OF CANOSSA

High up in the Apennines, Canossa Castle is famous as the place where the German Emperor, Henry IV, was humbled



St. Peter's, Rome

pure and strong, and free from the control of any earthly prince. But when he claimed as the ancient right of the Church, on the death of a bishop or abbot, to choose who should be given the office, Henry denied his claim with scorn.

Hot words were spoken and messages were carried between Germany and Rome, but Henry's friends forsook him, and at last he had to give in. Just before Christmas he set out for Italy secretly, with his wife and child and one faithful servant. It was a cruel win-

ter, for the Rhine was ice-bound for five months.

Crossing the Alps the queen and her baby son had to be let down the snowy slopes in a sledge made of ox-hides. They crossed the plain of Italy, where robbers lurked, and came at last to the Castle of Canossa, standing on a high rock among the mountains. Here Pope Hildebrand was awaiting him.

Henry mounted the steep rocky path, and knocked at the gate. He knocked from morning till evening, but in vain. For three days the heir of the Roman Empire, barefoot and clad in a coarse woolen shirt, stood at the gate shivering in the snow. On the fourth day he was at last admitted, and kneeling before the Pope, was forgiven.



Pope Gregory VII (Hildebrand).
From a print in the British Museum

The Church had triumphed. But there were times when the Church

was made a slave by the State. Long after this the Popes were made to live, for seventy years, far from Rome, at Avignon near the south border of France. Here they were forced to do the bidding of the French kings, and these were evil days for the Church.

Many people longed for the day when the Popes would reign again in Rome. Remembering the Bible story of the Jewish captives, people called those days in Avignon " the Babylonian captivity ".

One of those who wept at the sorrows of the Church was a girl named Catherine, who lived in the Italian city of Siena. Her father was a dyer by trade, but Catherine gave herself wholly to works of mercy and religion.

Siena was an old city, built in the shape of a star, and closely shut in by walls. Within its narrow streets plague broke out, and Catherine took the lead in tending the sick. She was ever ready to help those in trouble. Great men turned to this humble girl for counsel, and cities that were at strife were made friends again by her pleading.

Once when the Pope found fault with some of the cities of Italy, they chose Catherine to speak for them at Avignon. She went as they



The Palace of the Popes at Avignon; for seventy years the home of the Popes

desired, but she did more than plead their cause. She pleaded with the Pope to return to Rome; and so earnest were her words that at last the Pope did return, and the " captivity " was at an end.

From 1077, when the Emperor begged the forgiveness of the Church at Canossa, till 1377, when the head of the Church returned to Rome, at the pleading of Saint Catherine, three hundred years had passed. In that time new

kingdoms had risen to power over all that part of Europe where the Church of Rome was obeyed. And so we find that in England, as on the continent, the "two swords" of the Church and the State were apt to clash.



WILLIAM II BUILDING THE TOWER OF LONDON

From the painting by G. Goldsborough Anderson, in the Royal Exchange, London

THE STORY OF HENRY THE SECOND

Henry's Title and Character

Two sons of William the Conqueror were in turn kings of England. The first of them, William the Red, was an able but wicked man, and no one grieved when he was found dead in the New Forest, with an arrow through his heart.

The second of them, Henry I, was also an able man, and he pleased the English far more than his father and brother had done. He tried to deal justly and kindly with the English, and to make all men obey the law, great nobles as well as poor people.

When he died, leaving no son, there broke out a terrible war between his daughter Maud and his nephew Stephen, who both wished to be sovereign. At length it was agreed that Stephen should be king until his death, and that then Maud's son Henry should rule the country.

Henry became King Stephen's adopted son, and when Stephen died, in 1154, the nation gladly accepted the young man, only twenty-one years old, as their king.

During Stephen's reign, the country had been



in great misery. Stephen himself was a good-humored and generous man, but during the long civil war he had been unable to defend the people from the cruelty of the great lords.

Knowing that Henry II was a strong and able man, the nation looked to him to bring them out of their distress, and they were not disappointed.

Henry's father had been the lord of a large domain in France, his wife Eleanor was the duchess of another French province, and he was himself the Duke of Normandy. Thus the English king was lord of a greater part of France than was the French king himself.

Henry was a strongly built man, with square broad shoulders and thick bull neck. His face was ruddy and freckled, and his hair was red, and cropped short.

He had long powerful arms, with hands as rough as any ploughman's, and he rode on horseback so much that his legs were somewhat bandy. His voice was harsh and cracked, and when he was angry, his flashing grey eyes made him look terrible.

He was a restless and busy man. Indeed, so hard a worker was he that his servants prayed God to make their master a little more quiet. He dressed plainly, and lived on simple food, and would patiently spend whole days and nights in trying to think out plans by which to govern his people.

Though he was a fine soldier and a great general, he was a lover of peace, and showed himself full of pity for the wounded. While he could not speak a word of English, he knew

several other languages, and was fond of reading, and of talking with learned and clever men.

He had a very hot and fiery temper, and would sometimes roll about on the ground in his rage. Things he had once read, the faces of people he had once seen, rarely slipped from his memory, and he was faithful to his friends and unforgiving to his enemies.

He paid great attention to his religious duties; indeed he was a strange mixture of good and bad.

Henry's Work for England

Henry proved himself to be one of the greatest kings that England has ever had. Early in his reign he set to work to put down all those lords who brought misery on the people, and who were a trouble to himself.

These lords had built castles in different parts of the country, where they acted like little kings. The people around were entirely subject to them; they could be imprisoned and put to death at their lord's pleasure, and suffered much in many ways.

Many of the lords waged war against one another, so that it became impossible for people

to till the ground, and their flocks and herds were always in danger of being stolen.

Henry destroyed many of these castles; he made the lords understand that he would have the laws obeyed, and he took care that his orders were attended to.

The king himself traveled rapidly through the land, to find out exactly how the people lived, and how his officers treated them. He went from place to place so quickly, and took so little notice of difficulties, that he tried the temper of his servants and courtiers.

Sometimes they would journey to a town where there were not enough houses for them to lodge in, and then had to put up with miserable huts, or even to sleep on the ground. They sometimes had no food but stale fish, sour beer, and the coarsest black bread.



Effigy of Henry II. From his tomb at Fontevraud.

One of the king's servants



Great Seal of Henry II

wrote: "If the king has proclaimed that he intends to stop late in any place, you may be sure that he will start very early in the morning, and with his sudden haste destroy everyone's plans.

"You will see men running about like mad, urging forward their pack horses, driving their wagons into one another, everything in the utmost disorder.

"Whereas, if the king has given out that he will start early in the morning, he will certainly change his mind, and you may be sure he will snore till noon. You will see the pack horses drooping under their loads, wagons waiting, drivers nodding, tradesmen fretting, all grumbling at one another."

As he passed through the country, Henry heard lawsuits, settled cases which people thought the judges had not tried properly, and drew up charters granting rights and favors to towns and traders. He was thoroughly honest

and just, and made himself a terror to all false judges and cruel and unruly lords.

Henry's great work was the drawing up of a new plan of carrying out the law, which did much for the welfare and freedom of Englishmen. Up to his reign, most of the law business of the country had been done at the shire courts.

These were meetings held at certain times, in each county, and were attended by the lords of the county, the sheriff, the clergy, and people from the towns.

Here, if a man brought a charge against another man, he had to bring witnesses to support it. The accused man had to bring persons who could speak well of him, and very often the question whether he was guilty or not was settled by the votes of the whole meeting.

Sometimes he was tried by the method called Ordeal. He had to plunge his hand into boiling water, or to walk a certain number of paces holding a red-hot iron. If he received no hurt, he was believed to be innocent.



Silver Penny of Henry II

This way of settling disputes was very

rough and ready, and often led to further quarrels. So Henry resolved to make some great changes. There was a King's Court in London, where the work was done by trained lawyers and judges. But few people came to it, for in those days traveling was difficult and cost much money.

So Henry sent judges to hold Assizes in all parts of the country. The judges went on circuit, as it is called, visiting one place after another, and thus they took the law to the people, instead of making people come to the law. In this way right was done, and the people knew that they could now have some protection against their lords. The "circuit" courts in the United States grew out of these courts in England.

The result of this was that the nation began to grow prosperous. The land was tilled, and gave good crops; farms were safely stocked with sheep and cattle; trade grew in the towns.

Monasteries sprang up all over the country, and became centers of trade. Round the houses of the monks clustered barns and storehouses, and the monks employed men to drain swamps, to turn stagnant water into running streams, to make roads and build mills.

In Henry's reign the practice of paying taxes to the king in money instead of by doing military service became more common among the knights. Gradually the English knights and gentry settled down to the management of their estates and ceased to be a class of turbulent warriors. The king thus found himself less dependent upon his feudal vassals and with the taxes paid by them hired other soldiers to fight his battles abroad.

Knowledge and learning spread. Teachers gathered pupils about them at Oxford and other places, and English scholars went abroad, to France and Italy, to learn law, art, and science.

Thomas Becket

One of the greatest figures of Henry's reign, the first Englishman since the Conquest who rose to be head of the English Church, was Thomas of London. In those days family surnames were not known, but Thomas is generally called Thomas Becket, after his father Gilbert Becket.

He was born in 1118, in the London street called Cheapside. His father was a well-to-do merchant, and rose to be port-reeve, or, as now

known, Lord Mayor of London, the highest office in that city.

Thomas was well brought up. He was taught in London and in Paris, and after serving for a time in a London office, he was taken into the household of Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Slight and pale, with dark hair, long nose and straight features, he had a merry face, and a keen mind. He stuttered slightly in his talk, but pleased everyone by his frank and winning conversation, and soon became a great favorite with the archbishop.

He was soon employed in important business, and towards the end of Stephen's reign received many favors. He became a deacon in the Church, and when Henry came to the throne, the archbishop advised the king to make his favorite Thomas chancellor of the kingdom.

Thomas was very learned and clever, and gave the king much help in his great and difficult work. Henry, like everybody else, became very fond of his chancellor. They were always together. They sat together in hall and church, rode out hunting together, fought side by side

in battle, and together played many a pleasant game of chess.

Thomas lived in splendid style. He dressed in scarlet and furs, and in robes costly with cloth of gold. His household was of enormous size, and he had young nobles of the highest order to wait on him.

His tables groaned under the weight of his gold and silver plate, and in the great London shops where cooked foods were sold, it was always Thomas's servants who bought the choicest dishes for their master, and paid the highest prices.

Henry delighted to honor his excellent servant. He gave him rich gifts and treated him as his dearest friend. Sometimes he would come to the great hall where Thomas was dining, and spring over the table and sit down by his side.



Mitre of St. Thomas

Once as they were riding together

through the streets, a poor, ill-clad beggar knelt shivering before them. The king turned to the chancellor, and with a laugh snatched at the handsome cloak he wore. Thomas resisted, and king and subject had a tussle before Henry succeeded in plucking off the cloak, which he then threw to the beggar.

Becket Quarrels with Henry

For several years the king and the chancellor were the best of friends. Then the Archbishop of Canterbury died, and Henry chose Becket to fill his place.

Instantly there was coolness between the old friends, for a great change took place in Becket's way of life. He put off his fine clothes and wore sackcloth: the black frock of the monk took the place of the chancellor's fur-lined cloak. His table was still loaded with dainty food, but the poor and not the noble were now his guests.

His gay servants were sent away, and his household was formed of forty solemn monks, with whom he spent hours in prayer and study. He visited the sick, and every day he washed the feet of thirteen beggars.

This change of life offended Henry, who saw

that he could no longer depend on Becket's doing what he wished. The archbishop put his duty to the Church higher than his duty to the king. Like Hildebrand, Becket wished to keep the Church free from all outside control.



Seal of St. Thomas

The first quarrel was about a land tax, by which the king wished to obtain a large sum. Becket said that the manner in which this money was to be got was unjust, and Henry, being in the wrong, had to give way.

But they had a greater quarrel about the Church courts. Clergymen who wronged their fellow men were not tried by the king's judges, but by courts of clergymen. Henry thought that the punishments put upon the clergy by these courts were not severe enough, and wished that all men, whether holding offices in the Church or not, should be tried by the common law of the land.

Becket declared that the Church would not give up its rights, and at first the bishops supported him. But when Henry threatened to

take away their offices and their lands, they gave way, and Becket was left alone.

The bishops and the Pope begged him to let the king have his way, and at length he agreed to do so. Henry then called a great council at Clarendon, but here Becket changed his mind, and the king gave way to a furious burst of anger against his old friend.

The king's servants broke into the hall where the bishops were sitting, and brandished their axes above their heads. With tears and cries the bishops fell on their knees and besought Becket to give way.

At last he said: "I am ready to keep the customs of the kingdom." Henry at once ordered these customs to be written down, and the famous Constitutions of Clarendon were put together.

When Becket was asked to sign and seal this writing, he cried: "While I live I will never set my seal to it." But he appears to have given way at last, though unwillingly.

The Council of Northampton

The Constitutions of Clarendon settled that the clergy should be tried by the common law, but Becket refused to obey them. "I will

humble thee,'' cried the king, '' and will restore thee to the place from whence I took thee.''

A certain John the Marshal made a charge against Becket in the king's court. Becket refused to appear there, and appealed to the Pope, but the king's council sentenced him to pay a fine.

Then Henry held a council at Northampton, at which he called on Becket to give an account of certain moneys he had received as chancellor. Becket agreed to pay the king part of the money, but this was refused, and he was allowed a few days in which to submit entirely.

The last day of the council came, and the bishops begged of Becket to obey the king. But the archbishop ordered them to be silent; he put on his robes, said mass, and then set out for the castle where the council was held, only two of his servants riding with him.

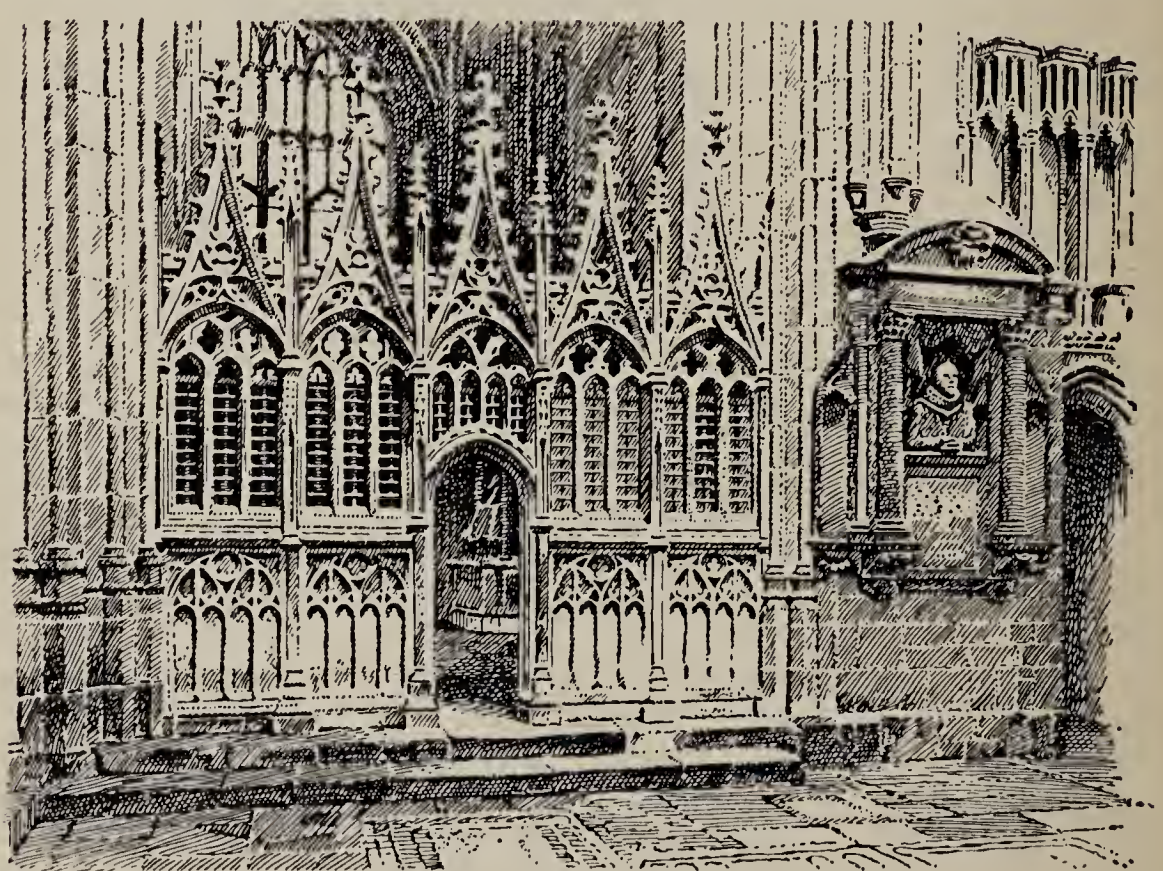
In his right hand he held his archbishop's cross, and crowds of people thronged about him, weeping, and asking for his blessing, for they believed that that day he would be slain.

When the king heard of his coming, he retired with his chief officers to the upper room where he held private council. A messenger was sent to Becket demanding that he should

withdraw his appeal to the Pope. He refused, and the barons cried out in anger when the messenger returned with the news.

Then the lords passed sentence against Becket, declaring him a traitor, and the Earl of Leicester was sent to pronounce judgment. As the earl entered the hall where the bishops sat, the archbishop sprang up and raised his cross aloft. "By the right of my office I forbid you to pronounce the sentence," he cried.

The nobles drew back, and, still holding his cross, Becket said: "I also withdraw, for the hour is past." As he passed proudly down



Transept of Martyrdom, Canterbury Cathedral

the hall, cries of "traitor" were raised and knights and barons followed him almost mad with rage.

That night, helped by the darkness and a terrible storm, Becket fled from Northampton, and in a few days escaped to France. When Henry heard the news, for a moment he could scarcely speak for wrath. Then he thundered out: "We have not done with him yet!"

The End of Becket, 1170

For six years Becket remained abroad, and the Pope in vain tried to make peace between him and Henry. At length the archbishop found another cause for complaint.

Henry wished the kingdom to pass at his death to his eldest son, and in order to insure that there should be no trouble, he decided to have the boy crowned during his father's lifetime. This was a plan adopted with success by the kings of France.

He therefore had his young son, Henry, crowned in Becket's absence by the Archbishop of York. But the right of crowning belonged to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Becket declared that all who had taken part in the ceremony were cast out of the Church.

Henry thought now that it would be wise to make friends with Becket, so he met him in France, and promised that he should return in safety to England, and that the crowning should be performed over again by himself.

But the friendship was not sincere. As soon as Becket returned to England, he again declared that he would punish the bishops, who thereupon fled across the sea to France. "What a pack of fools and cowards I have nourished in my house," cried the angry king, "that not one of them will avenge me of this one upstart clerk!"

Four knights who heard this hasty speech secretly left the Court, and crossed with all speed to England. They hurried to Canterbury, and, seeking Becket, they demanded that he should at once submit to the king.

When Becket refused with bitter words, the knights withdrew to arm themselves. It was time for evening service, and, putting on his mitre and robes, against the advice of his friends the archbishop went into the cathedral.

A noise was heard at the doors; they were burst in; and as the knights rushed forward, the monks fled, leaving Becket alone at the head of a flight of steps.

One of the knights cried: "Where is the traitor Becket?" "Here!" cried the archbishop, "no traitor, but priest of God!" Another tried to drag him down. "Come," he said, "thou art our prisoner." Becket thrust him headlong down the steps. "Away! Thou art my vassal!" he cried.

One faithful monk was wounded in defence of his master. Then the knights fell upon Becket, struck off his mitre, and pierced him with many wounds.

The murder of Becket caused great distress to Henry. For three days he ate nothing; for five weeks he refused to see any visitors. Some years later he visited Canterbury, passed a whole night in prayer before Becket's tomb, and in the morning asked the monks to whip his bare back, in token of his sorrow for the wicked deed.

Becket was looked upon as a martyr; the people loved and honored his memory, and went as pilgrims to his tomb.

Henry's Last Years

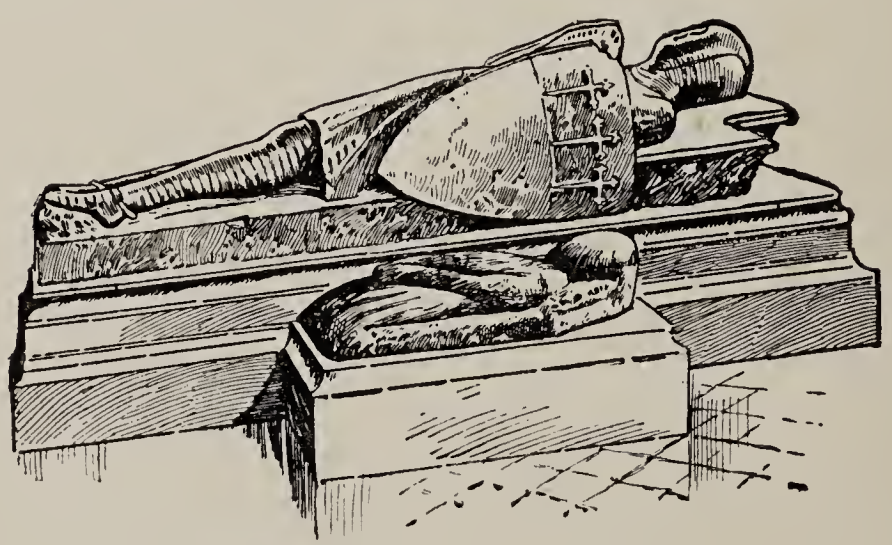
Henry II was the first English king who tried to conquer Ireland. The people of that country, who were of a different race from

the English, were ruled by many kings, each with a small kingdom of his own, and these kings were almost constantly at war one with another.

Several of these kings joined together, and drove away a king who had offended them. He fled to Henry, did homage to him, and got leave to obtain the help of some English lords and knights, so that he might get back his Irish throne again.

By the aid of Richard de Clare, commonly known as Strongbow, and of other knights the Irish king was restored. Then the English knights fought against the Irish, and also against the Danes who had settled in Ireland, and took much of the land for themselves.

Henry at last crossed to Ireland himself, in order to prevent his knights from getting



Strongbow's Tomb. Dublin

beyond his rule and government. He restored order and received homage, but he soon had to leave the country, and then disorder and bloodshed broke out again.

Henry was recalled from Ireland by a revolt of his barons. The power of the barons had been much reduced by Henry's wise measures, and they smarted under his iron rule. Numbers of lords, both in England and Normandy, joined together to fight against him. He acted with wonderful energy. The King of France was amazed at the speed with which Henry went about his work. "The King of England", he said, "is now in Ireland, now in England, now in Normandy: he may rather be said to fly than to go by horse or boat."

Henry crushed the rebellion everywhere, but he never again enjoyed rest. His own sons, to whom he had given many lands, rebelled against him. Henry loved his sons too well to fight against them in deadly earnest. He was forgiving, and wished to be at peace with them. Two of them were removed by death, but the two who were left, Richard and John, still troubled their father.

At length Richard joined with the King of France in making war on Henry. The English

king seemed to have lost his former power; he was old, and weary, and ill, and hardly escaped defeat. Then he had to give way to the demands of the French king. He had to do homage to him for his lands in France, to pay a large sum of money, and to give up some castles.

After agreeing with bitter sorrow to all this, he was carried in a litter to his castle at Chinon. There a list was brought him of those who had rebelled, and when he told his chancellor to read it, the very first name he heard was that of John, his youngest and favorite son.

"Is it true," the poor king cried, "that John, my very heart, whom I have loved beyond all my sons, has forsaken me?" Then he lay down and turned his face to the wall. "Now you have said enough," the dying man murmured; "let all the rest go as it will, I care no more for myself and the world."



THE VIGIL

From the painting by John Pettie, R.A., in the Tate Gallery, London

THE CRUSADES

What the Crusades were

In the year 1094 a small, thin, haggard man might have been seen traveling through France on a donkey, and stopping here and there to speak to the people who came about him.

His head and feet were bare: his cheeks were hollow and worn with suffering. In his hand he carried a crucifix, which, as he addressed the people, he raised high above his head. Rich and poor came in crowds to hear what he had to say, and as they listened to his stories of dreadful cruelty, they groaned and shed tears.

This man was Peter the Hermit, who had gone as a pilgrim to the tomb of Christ in Palestine. He had been cruelly treated, like many other Christian pilgrims, by the Turks, who then were masters of the holy place.

In those days people thought that God would be pleased with them, and would forgive them their sins, if they went to Jerusalem to pray at the tomb of Christ. But the Turks were followers of the prophet Mahomet, and did not believe in Christ, and they did horrible deeds of cruelty to the Christian pilgrims.

Now Peter had come to urge Christian people to raise a great army, and fight against these Turks, and rescue the sacred city from them. He preached so powerfully that hundreds and thousands of people were eager to do what he wished.

In the next year a great council was held in the south of France, and thousands of people gathered to hear a speech from Pope Urban.

The Pope told them that, if they went to fight against the Turks in Palestine, sufferings and torments might be their lot; but though their bodies might suffer, their souls would be saved.

"It is the will of God!" shouted the people. "Yes, it is his will," replied the Pope. "You are soldiers of the Cross: wear then on your breasts or on your shoulders the blood-red sign of him who died for you."

This was the beginning of the Crusades, or Wars of the Cross. At different times, in the course of two hundred years, nine of these wars were undertaken.

Many thousands of people "took the cross", that is, engaged to go and fight against the Turks. Large numbers of the Crusaders were sincerely anxious to do this, since they believed

it to be a solemn duty. Others joined them simply because they loved fighting, and were eager to make great names for themselves.

> "We cannot pine in cloister;
> We cannot fast and pray;
> The sword which built our load of guilt
> Must wipe that guilt away."

Serfs were set free by their lords; criminals were let out of prison; debtors escaped from those to whom they owed money, in order to take part in the holy wars.

Men who had lived wicked lives took the cross, believing that by fighting the infidels they would earn pardon for their worst sins.

Lords sold their lands and ladies gave their jewels, in order to buy arms and horses for the knights and men-at-arms who left their homes for the East.

The First Crusade, 1099

On the far edge of Europe, where it reaches out toward Asia Minor, stands the ancient city of Constantinople. Here among a Greek people the Roman Empire lived on for a thousand years after Rome herself had fallen. (See map in appendix.)

But it was a post of danger, for this was the gateway of Europe where the hordes of Asia were pressing to enter. At last the Emperor wrote to Pope Hildebrand asking for help against the Turks. Help did not come at once, but his appeal was one of the causes that led to the Crusades.

When the first of the crusading hosts drew near to Constantinople, the Emperor began to wish he had never asked for their help. They were little better than a rabble. In their haste to be off they would listen to no counsel, but set out without plan or order, led by Peter the Hermit and Walter the Penniless.



Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem

Having no proper supplies, they plundered the lands they passed through, till the people took up arms against them.

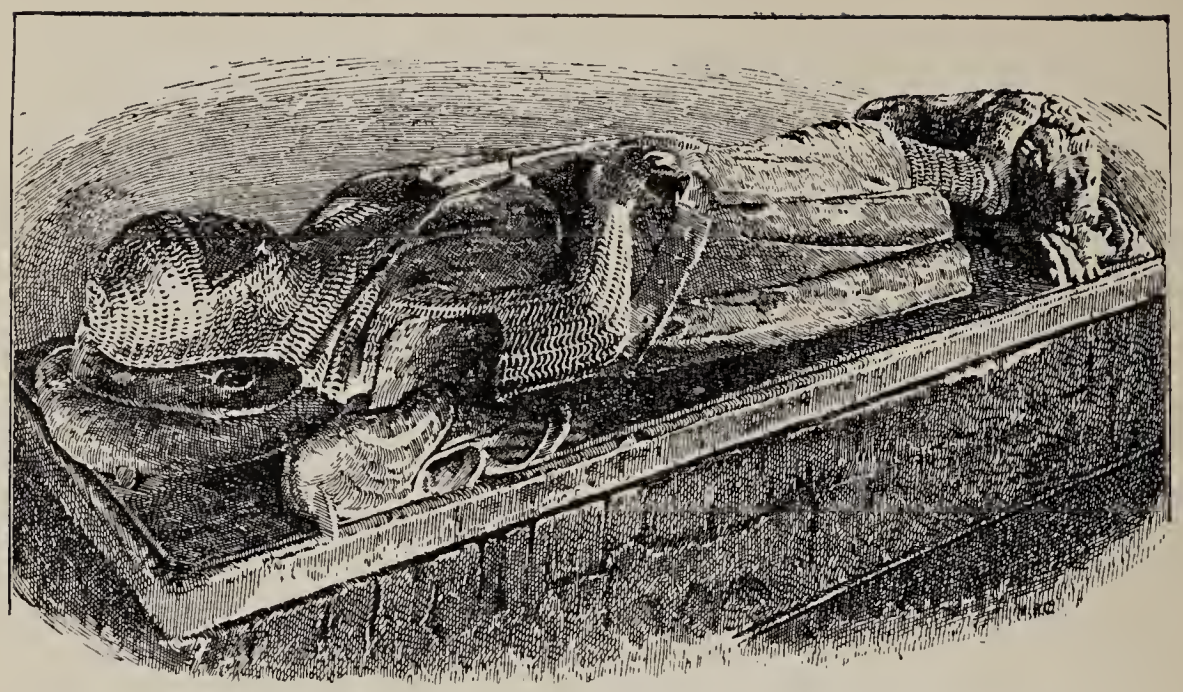
From such a host the Emperor could hope for little help; indeed, he had to lend his aid to bring them safely to Constantinople.

When they did arrive, he hurried them across the straits, glad to be rid of such unwelcome guests. Once landed on the soil of Asia, they soon fell a prey to the watchful armies of the Turks, and few of them ever reached Jerusalem.

Behind this pitiful mob followed the real army of the Crusaders. It was made up of well-armed men, led by some of the bravest knights in Europe.

Foremost among the leaders was Duke Godfrey, a man of noble stamp, strong in arms and pure in life. He it was who, when the King of Hungary would not trust the Crusaders to pass peacefully through his realm, offered to give himself up as a pledge of good faith.

With him were Hugh, brother of the King of France; Robert of Normandy, son of the Conqueror; and many another prince. Among the leaders who came from the south of Europe the noblest was Tancred. "My soldiers," said he, "are my glory and my riches. Let them



Tomb of Knight Crusader, Winchester Cathedral

The figure has the legs crossed and the feet placed upon a lion, indicating that the knight took part in the Crusades and that he was killed in action.

have the spoil, and let me have for my portion care, danger, weariness, rain, and hail."

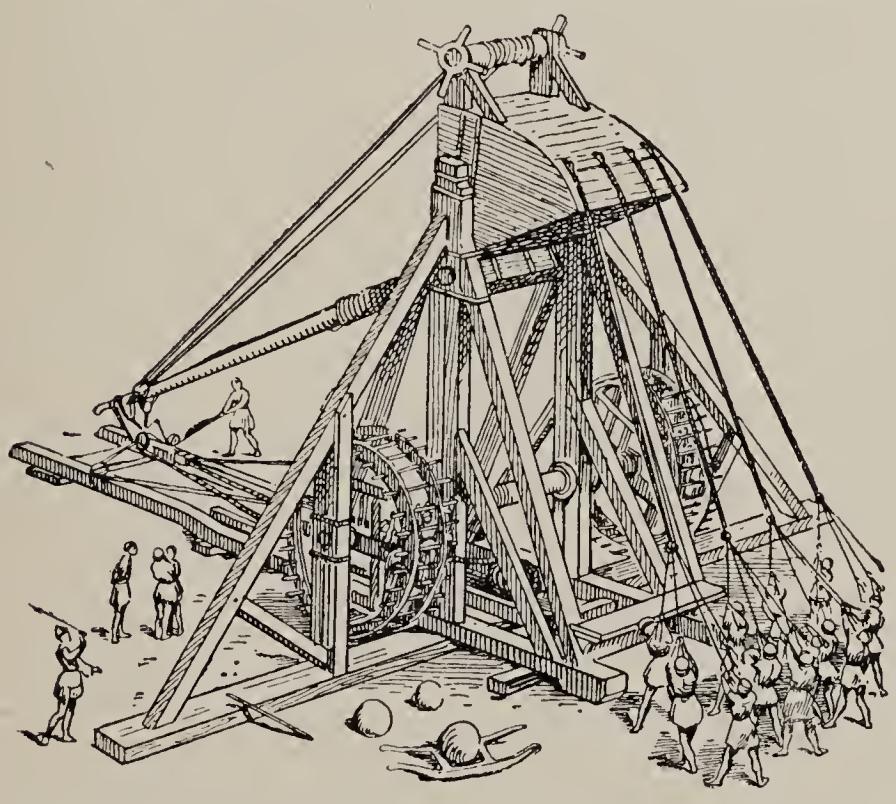
Hardship, however, was to be the portion of all alike. We see the great host toiling, sick and weary, under the blazing sun of Asia. Their baggage is heaped on the backs of dogs and goats, for the pack horses have died of the heat.

Men, women, and children, too, have perished under that sun. Many of the bravest knights and men-at-arms have fallen in battle, while others have stayed behind to hold the cities that they have won from the enemy.

When at last the white walls of the Holy City came in sight, the Crusaders fell on their knees and kissed the sacred soil, with tears and prayers of thanksgiving. Then, laying aside their arms, they advanced towards Jerusalem, barefooted and in pilgrim dress.

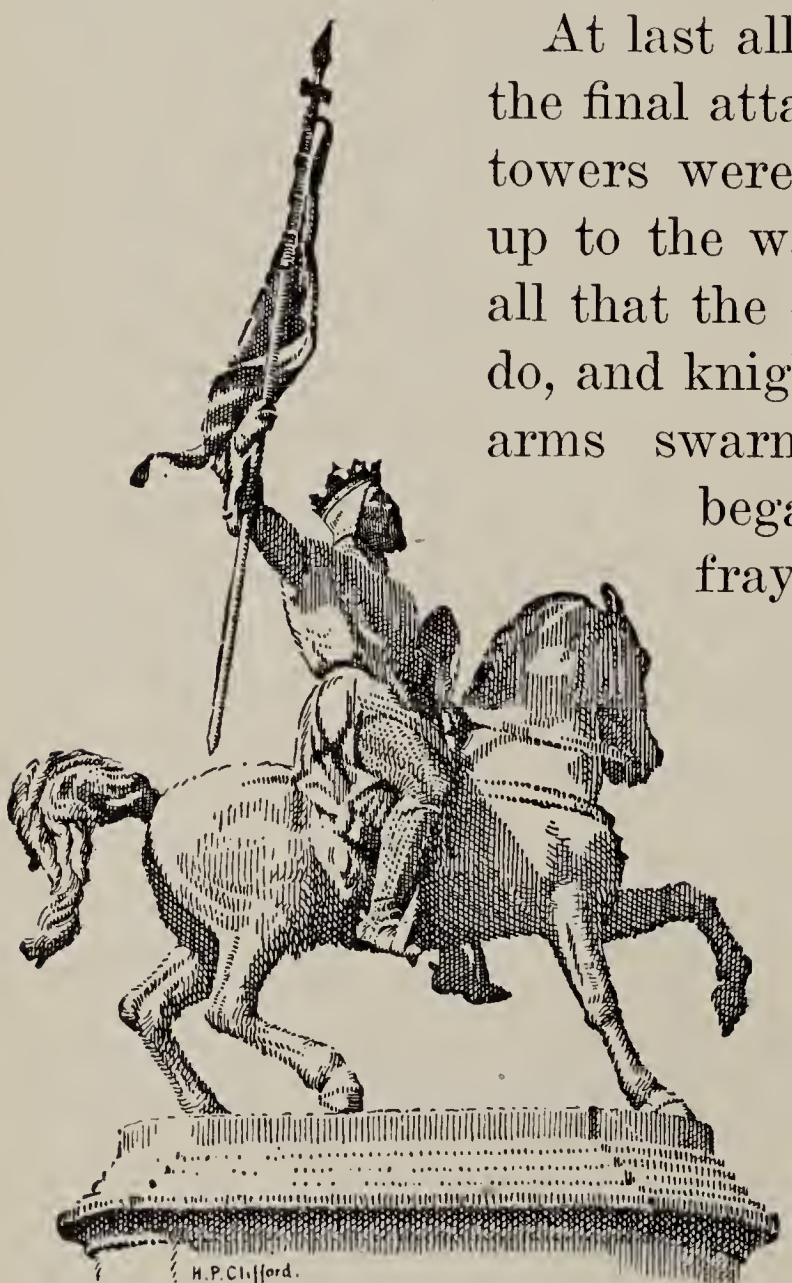
But though the end of their labors was in sight, grim work remained to be done. They did indeed try, with blind zeal, to storm the city walls with only one ladder. A few daring champions of the cross stood for a moment on the crest of the wall, but only to be dashed to the ground below by the defenders.

Other means must be found. Wooden tow-



Stone-throwing Machine of the Time of the Crusades

ers must first be built and pushed up to the walls. In this task a full month was spent, for timber had to be brought from thirty miles away, and the enemy were ever ready to pounce upon them unawares. To add to the troubles of the Crusaders, water was scarce and the heat terrible.



Statue of Godfrey de Bouillon at Brussels

At last all was ready and the final attack began. The towers were slowly pushed up to the walls, in spite of all that the defenders could do, and knights and men-at-arms swarmed up. Now began a furious fray upon the wall, a fray in which none were spared. The fate of the city was still in doubt when darkness put an end to the fighting.

Night brought no rest, for the

hours were spent by each side in making ready for the morrow. At dawn the last assault was made upon the defenders of the wall. Still the issue seemed in doubt, when the cry was raised: "St. George! St. George!"

St. George himself, so ran the story, had been seen on Mount Olivet, urging on the champions of the Cross. Thus cheered, the Crusaders fought with a new hope. The Moslems were beaten back, and an entrance was at last made into the city.

And now, within these holy walls, the pent-up hate of man for man was let loose. Used to scenes of blood, the soldiers of the Cross counted it their dearest duty to slay the enemies of their faith. Men and women, boys and girls, were slain without pity.

Such was the "holy war" of eight hundred years ago. Now such deeds and such a scene would fill us with shame, but the pious minds of that age saw in it the triumph of the Cross. On the day after the slaughter, Duke Godfrey and his followers went to worship in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Barefoot, and clad in spotless white, they knelt at that sacred tomb to give thanks for their victory.

The Knights of the Cross

Now that Jerusalem was in their hands, the Crusaders had to choose who should rule them. The choice fell upon Duke Godfrey, for none other was held in such honor. "If all honor should fail from the world," said one of his Saracen foes, "Duke Godfrey is enough alone to restore it and bring it to light."

Godfrey agreed to be their ruler, but he declined the title of king. He would not wear the crown of gold, he said, where his Lord had worn the crown of thorns. Those who ruled after Godfrey did not share his scruples, and for the next eighty-eight years Jerusalem was a Christian kingdom.

During the siege of Jerusalem some of the wounded had found refuge within the city at the guest house or hospital of St. John. When Godfrey visited this place, he found the master and brothers of the hospital living on bran and the coarsest flour, while they gave the best of food to the sick and poor who were under their care.

From this lowly beginning rose one of the great orders of knighthood, the Knights of St. John or the Hospitallers, as they are called.

They were to fight only against the Saracen foe, never against their fellow Christians. They were to be the servants of the poor and of the sick. They were forbidden to marry, and were pledged to live the life of the poor and to obey those who were set over them.

Nearby the Hospital of St. John stood the house of the Knights of the Temple. Like their neighbors, they took the vow of poverty and obedience and might not marry. But the care of the sick and of the poor was no concern of theirs; their business was war. They were the defenders of the Holy Sepulchre.

In every battle against the Saracens the Templars formed the right wing and the Hospitallers the left wing of the Christian army. They were the great champions of the Cross, and the fame of their deeds spread over Europe.



Knight Templar

Though these knights were not allowed to own any worldly goods themselves, the two orders became very wealthy. In every land they held great estates, and the Temple Church in London remains to this day to remind us of these Knights of the Cross.

The Knights who fought side by side in the Crusades came from many lands. Yet in many things they were alike, for all had been trained in the same way. They cared for the same things and lived the same kind of life.

The training began in early years. At the age of seven, if he were of gentle birth, a boy was sent to serve as page at the castle of some friendly noble. He had to serve at table, to wait upon the ladies, and learn good manners. Such book learning as was given was mostly learned by heart, for books were scarce. But most of the teaching was in the open air. The page must learn running, boxing, riding, and tilting. He must know how to mind a horse and look after armor.

At the age of fourteen the page became a squire. He must now be up early and late, ever ready to answer his knight's call. He must look after his master's armor, and, in battle or in tournament, must be at hand to

supply him at need with a new lance or a fresh horse. In the castle he must always be ready to do the ladies' pleasure, to play at chess, to walk in the garden, or to go out hawking or hunting.

At the age of twenty-one, with many solemn rites, the squire was made a knight. The long hours of the night before were spent in keeping lonely watch before the altar. Then, having confessed his sins and received the sacrament, the squire knelt before his feudal lord to take the vows of knighthood.

He promised to defend the faith, to protect and help the distressed, and be faithful to his brother knights. His arms were now given him, the sword being girded on by the lady of his choice.

Then, once more kneeling, he received the last rite. Striking him on the shoulder with the flat of the sword, the lord uttered these words: "In the name of God, St. Michael, and St. George, I dub you knight. Be brave, hardy and loyal."

These were noble words. Not many knights lived up to their high vows, but these rites kept before men's eyes the picture of the "gentle, perfect knight".

The Third Crusade, 1191

Richard I was the first English king who went on a Crusade. Richard was a tall, handsome man, thirty-two years old when he became king; very strong and brave, and therefore called Lion-heart; fond of showy dress, and wasteful of money. He was a fine soldier, a good speaker, and a warm-hearted though not a good man.

Having raised great sums of money in all kinds of ways, Richard left England only six months after he became king. He was joined by the King of France and other great princes.

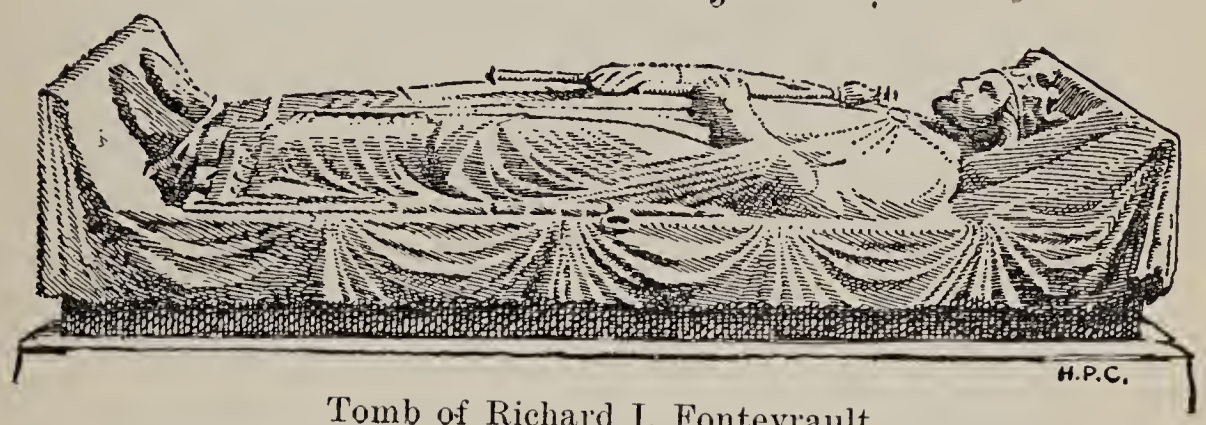
On arriving in Palestine, Richard, by his wonderful bravery and strength, struck terror into the hearts of his enemies. He took part in the siege of Acre, where Saladin, the great leader of the Turks, was forced to surrender.

The King of France then returned home, leaving Richard to advance alone to Jerusalem, which had again fallen into the hands of the Turks. The English king came within sight of the sacred city, but had to retire without capturing it.

Soon afterwards, hearing of troubles in England, Richard resolved to return to his king-

dom. His brother John, whom he had left at home, though not as ruler, was trying to take the kingdom from him with the aid of the French king.

So Richard made a truce with Saladin, and started on his homeward journey.



Tomb of Richard I, Fontevrault

Richard's Adventures and Death

Sailing along the coast of Italy, Richard's ship was wrecked, and he resolved to finish his journey overland. He had made enemies on the Continent, and knew that the journey would be dangerous; but he thought that in his pilgrim's dress he would be safe.

He sent a servant of his named Baldwin to the lord of that part of the country to ask leave for himself and "Hugh the Merchant" to pass through on their way home from pilgrimage. Baldwin took with him a costly ring as a present to the lord.

The lord looked at the ring, and said: "This jewel can only come from a king; that king must be Richard of England. Tell him he may come to me in peace."

But "Hugh the Merchant" (as Richard called himself) did not trust the promise, and fled, leaving some of his companions in prison. He went on with one knight and a boy. The boy was sent to buy food at a market near Vienna, and, as he had plenty of money, the merchants were curious to know the name of his master.

He was forced to tell it, and then Richard's house was surrounded by a troop of soldiers, who called on the king to come out as their prisoner. Richard refused to give himself up except to their lord, who happened to be Leopold, Duke of Austria.

Now Leopold had been with Richard in the Holy Land, and had become his bitter enemy. He was therefore glad to get Richard into his power. He put him in prison, but soon after sold him to the Emperor for £60,000. Richard was then kept a prisoner in a strong castle.

For a time none of his subjects knew where their king was. At last, as the story says, his prison was discovered by his minstrel Blondel,

who wandered all over Europe seeking his master.

Singing one day a song of Richard's beneath a small window in a castle wall, the minstrel heard the voice of his master faintly echoing the song from within. Overjoyed at hearing once more the well-known voice, Blondel hastened to England with the good news that he had found the king's prison. A large sum of money was at once raised to buy the king's freedom.

Richard returned to England after four years' absence, having spent one year in prison. He now remained in his kingdom only two months, during which time, however, he put an end to the disorder caused by the rebellion of his brother John.

Richard spent his last years in war with the King of France. In the tenth year of his reign he heard that a great treasure of gold had been found buried in the earth on an estate in the south of France.

As the lord of this estate was a vassal of his, Richard demanded the larger share of the treasure, and when this was refused, he besieged a castle belonging to the lord.

The castle was strong, and held out stub-

bornly, though the king threatened to hang every man, woman, and child in it unless it were given up. One day, as he rode around it, an arrow shot from the wall struck him. His doctors were clumsy, and made his wound worse, and he knew that he must die.

When the castle was taken, the man who had wounded him was made prisoner, and brought before the dying king. "What have I done to you that you should kill me?" Richard asked. "You have slain my father and my brothers, and taken all that belonged to them," was the reply.

Then the generous king forgave the man, and bade his servants let him go in peace. Thus Richard died, and he was buried with his father in a Norman abbey.[1]

Later Crusades

We cannot follow the history of all the Crusades. Few had any great success, while some never reached their goal at all, but spent their force in other ways.

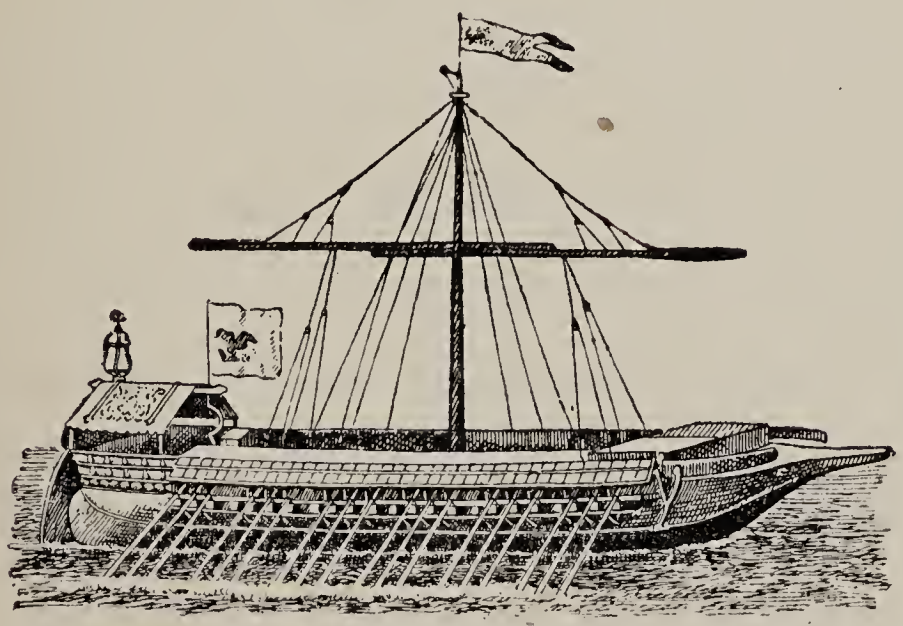
Three years after Richard's death, an army was raised at Venice. To avoid the perils of a

[1]Read Scott's "Ivanhoe", adapted by Mrs. Nida, for the story of Richard the Lionhearted.

land journey they wished to go by ship; and no city but Venice had a fleet large enough to carry so large a force, for Venice was at this time the greatest trading city in the world.

But the merchants of Venice cared more to win markets than to win the martyr's crown. The fleet sailed not to the Holy Land but to Constantinople, and took that city by storm. A Flemish prince was set upon the throne, and for over fifty years there was a Latin Empire in the East. Many of the Greek islands were given to Venice as her share of the spoil.

If this was a Crusade of selfish men seeking their own gain, that which followed a few years later was very unlike it. Its leader was a French peasant boy, about twelve years old,



Venetian Galley

named Stephen. He called the children to join him, and wherever he went boys and girls left their parents to follow the young leader.

It was a strange army, for they had no money and no arms. Yet many thought that the children might win where their fathers had failed; that the victory which had been denied to sinful men might be given to innocent children.

The children came at last, thirty thousand strong, to the seaport of Marseilles. Stephen hoped that, as in the Bible story, the sea would open before them and let them pass on dry land.

But the sea cared no more for Stephen's wishes than it had for Canute's. At last two merchants offered a fleet of seven ships to take the children to the Holy Land. They gladly went on board, full of hope, and as the sails were hoisted the children joined in a hymn.

Poor little folk, they dreamed as little as the Babes in the Wood what lay in store for them! The two merchants were cruel wretches. They took the children to the slave markets of North Africa, and the children who had set out as soldiers of the Cross, found themselves sold as slaves to Moslem masters.

About the same time another army of boys

and girls set out from Germany, led by a lad named Nicolas. They crossed the Alps, in spite of brigands and other terrors; but ere they reached Italy many had died by the way. Some took ship for the East and were never heard of again, some went home, and others settled in Genoa, where not a few of them rose to be great and wealthy.

One other crusade we must notice, not because it had better fortune than the rest, but for the sake of its leader. He was King of France, and one of the strongest rulers of Europe, but he is remembered as Saint Louis.

He was every inch a king, a perfect knight, tall and fearless. Yet he was sweet and gentle, and had the humblest spirit.

An old woman was once pleading her cause before Louis, and broke out into angry words:

"You are a king only of priests and monks," she said; "it is a pity you are king of France."

"You speak truly," answered the king. "It had been well had God chosen someone better able to rule this kingdom aright." And he sent her away with gifts.

Louis landed in Egypt with a large army, and was soon joined by two hundred English knights. At sight of the crusading host the

enemy fled, leaving their city in the king's hands.

But, though a brave soldier, Louis was a poor general. There was no order in the army. Knowing nothing of the country, he was not prepared for the annual floods of the Nile. Plague broke out in the army, and at last, stricken with sickness, Louis found himself a prisoner in the hands of the enemy.

Under threat of torture he refused to give up his faith. Not even the shame of being shown to the gaze of idle crowds could break his kingly spirit. "I am your prisoner," he said; "you may do with me as you will."

A price was at last fixed for the ransom of the king and of his knights. Louis complained of the price set on his own head, but paid the other at once. "The King of France," he said, "must not haggle over the freedom of his subjects."

Undaunted by the failure of this Crusade, Louis made ready for another, but sickness overtook him again, and he died in 1270. Louis was perhaps the last great Crusader, and he was looked on in Europe as the model of what a king should be.



ST. LOUIS A PRISONER IN THE HANDS OF THE SARACENS

From the mural painting by Cabanel, in the Pantheon, Paris

KING JOHN AND THE GREAT CHARTER

Signing of the Charter, 1215

On a summer day, in the year 1215, a meadow near Windsor was the scene of an event which Englishmen look back upon as one of the most important events in their history.

The chief figure in the scene was a king — a king so bad that no other king of England has borne his name. It was John, the same John whose rebellion broke the heart of his father, Henry II.

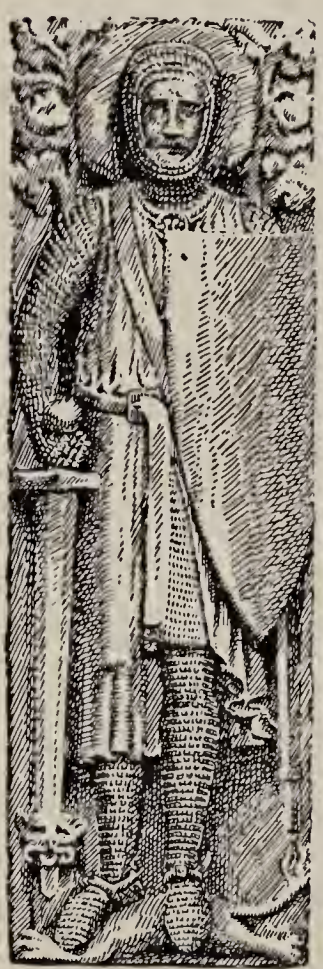
John had been a bad son and a bad brother before he became a bad king. He had done his best to get the kingdom away from his brother Richard Lion-heart, who had in his noble way forgiven him.

He was a mean, false, cruel man. When quite a lad, he had gone to Ireland on behalf of his father to receive the homage of the Irish chiefs, and amused himself there by pulling hairs out of their beards.

He was at heart a coward, but played the bully when he had nothing to fear. He was greedy and wasteful, slothful and stubborn,

bad-tempered, and guilty of all kinds of wickedness. He actually put to death his own nephew, Arthur, a boy of sixteen, because some of his French subjects wished to have Arthur as their king.

And now, on this meadow of Runnymede, after sixteen years of misrule, King John was compelled to set his seal to a charter which recognized the rights of Englishmen.



Effigy of William Marshal. From his tomb in the Temple Church, London

About him were grouped some of England's greatest men. There was Cardinal Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, a wise and learned man, who loved England well.

There were Robert Fitzwalter and William Marshal, great barons, who were ready to use their swords against the tyrant king. These men stood there while John unwillingly put his seal to the Charter drawn up by Langton.

How did this Great Charter make Englishmen free? Firstly, it settled what the rights of the people were, and showed that

there were certain things which King John must not do. Secondly, it remained for future ages to refer to: whenever a king was inclined to act like a tyrant, there was the Great Charter for the people to appeal to. It was confirmed many times by later kings; upon it other charters of liberty were based.

It laid down the rule that the king could not demand money from his people without the consent of the Council of the Realm. It declared that no freeman should be put in prison, or banished, or deprived of his goods until he had been judged by his equals according to the law of the land. The laborer's tools, the merchant's goods, were as carefully guarded against the greed of the king as the wealth of the barons.

" To none will we sell or deny or delay right or justice " are the famous words of the Charter. In short, it secured liberty and justice for all — high and low, rich and poor.

Let us now see what events led up to the signing of the Great Charter.

Stephen Langton

John brought upon himself much trouble, and upon England much disgrace, by his own willful folly.

The Archbishop of Canterbury having died, a new one had to be chosen, and the right of choice lay with the monks of Canterbury.

Some of the monks chose one man; others, acting under orders from John, elected one of John's own favorites. An appeal was made to Rome. Now the Pope who ruled at the time was Innocent III, the strongest of all the Popes. He set aside both of the men who had been chosen, and caused an English Cardinal, named Stephen Langton, to be made archbishop instead.

Langton was a great and good man. He was a hard worker and a learned writer; it was he who first divided the books of the Bible into chapters as they are at the present time. Above all, he tried to persuade John to rule well, and he stood up manfully for the people whom John oppressed.

John was furious when he heard of what the Pope had done. For six years the new archbishop dared not come to England, so ter-

rible were John's threats. The monks of Canterbury were driven out of their monastery, and the church lands were seized by the king.

In order to force John to admit the archbishop and restore the monks, the Pope laid the country under an Interdict; that is, he ordered churches to be shut up, forbade services to be held, and would not even allow the burial service to be used.

John did not care for this, as the trouble fell only on the people. Then the Pope declared that the king was no longer a member of the Church, and that he must be shunned as an outcast — like the Emperor under the ban of Hildebrand.

The Pope also ordered Philip, King of France, to take John's kingdom from him. When John found that Philip was preparing to do so, and that his own lords were deserting him, he gave way.

He allowed Langton to come to England; he promised to give back to the Church the lands he had taken from it. He even did homage to the Pope for his kingdom, and agreed to pay him a large yearly tribute.

Meanwhile the barons were growing more and more weary of John's rule. Heavy taxes



Seal of Stephen Langton

were laid upon them, and in many ways they were shamefully treated, while the common people fared no better.

At length, at a council held in London, Stephen Langton brought out and read to the clergy and barons the Charter of Henry I, in which that king had promised to rule England according to English law. The barons solemnly swore to compel John, by force of arms if needful, to rule according to this Charter.

Some time after, when John sent to ask what the barons wanted, Langton, as their spokesman, went to him and read the articles which afterwards became the Great Charter. Then John flew into a rage, and declared that he would never agree to them. "Why do they not demand my kingdom also?" he cried.

The barons at once took up arms under Robert Fitzwalter, and were gladly welcomed by the citizens of London.

Finding that his party was growing less and

less, and the party of the barons stronger and stronger, the king at last gave way. At Runnymede, as we have seen, he signed the Great Charter of English freedom.

Last Days of King John

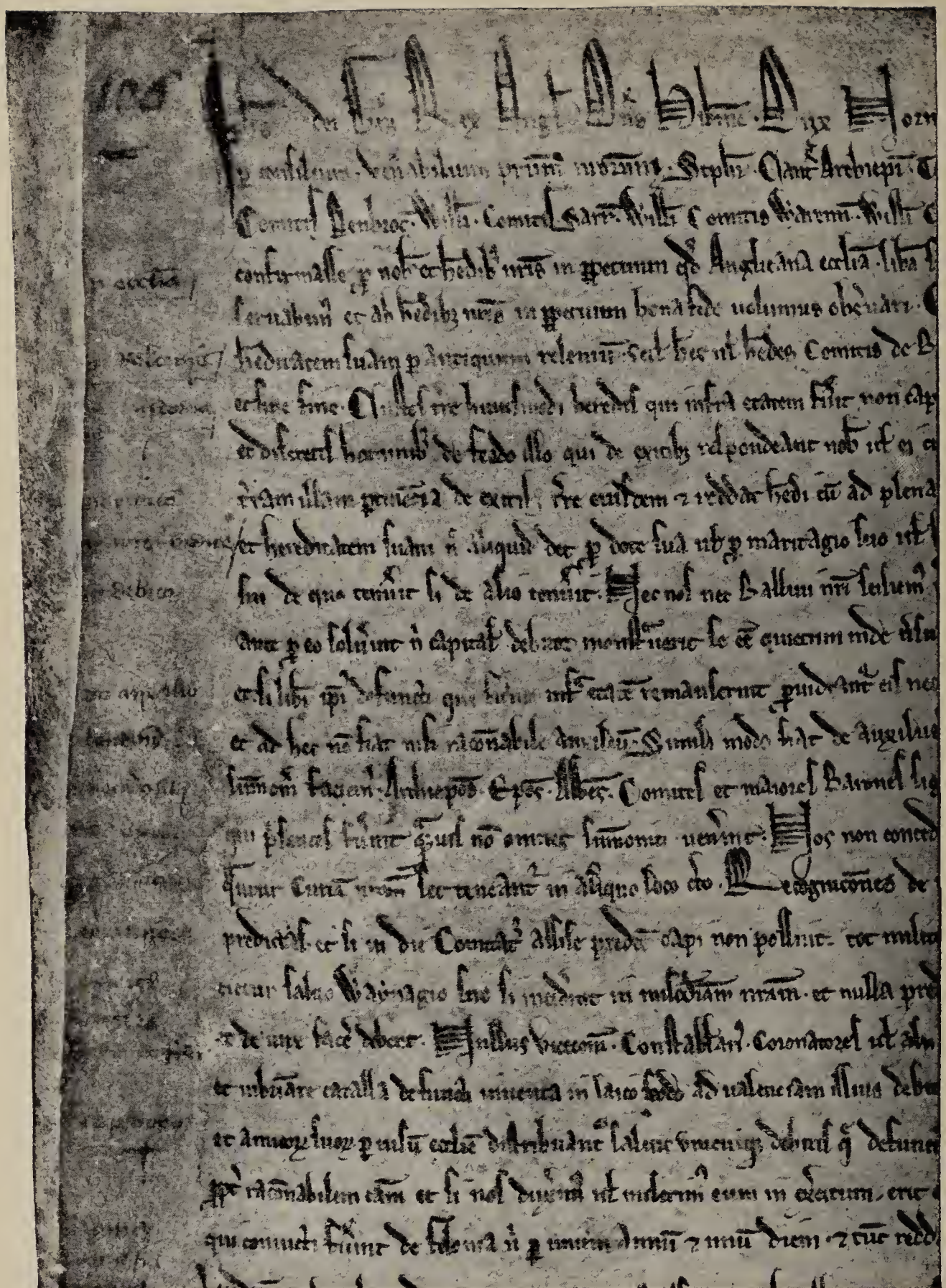
After John had signed the Great Charter, some of the foreign captains whom he had hired to fight for him taunted him with being only a puppet king. John flew into a terrible rage. He flung himself on the ground, gnashing with his teeth; he gnawed bits of sticks and straw, and behaved like a madman.

Then, to show how little he cared for the Charter, he set about revenging himself on the barons. He got together an army of foreign soldiers, and the barons, fearing that they might be overcome, sought help from France.

Louis,[1] the son of the French king, came over at once with an army. He landed in Kent, and, with the aid of the English barons, made himself master of several towns and castles.

The king, meanwhile, went about the country with his foreign army, destroying houses and castles, burning crops, plundering and slaying.

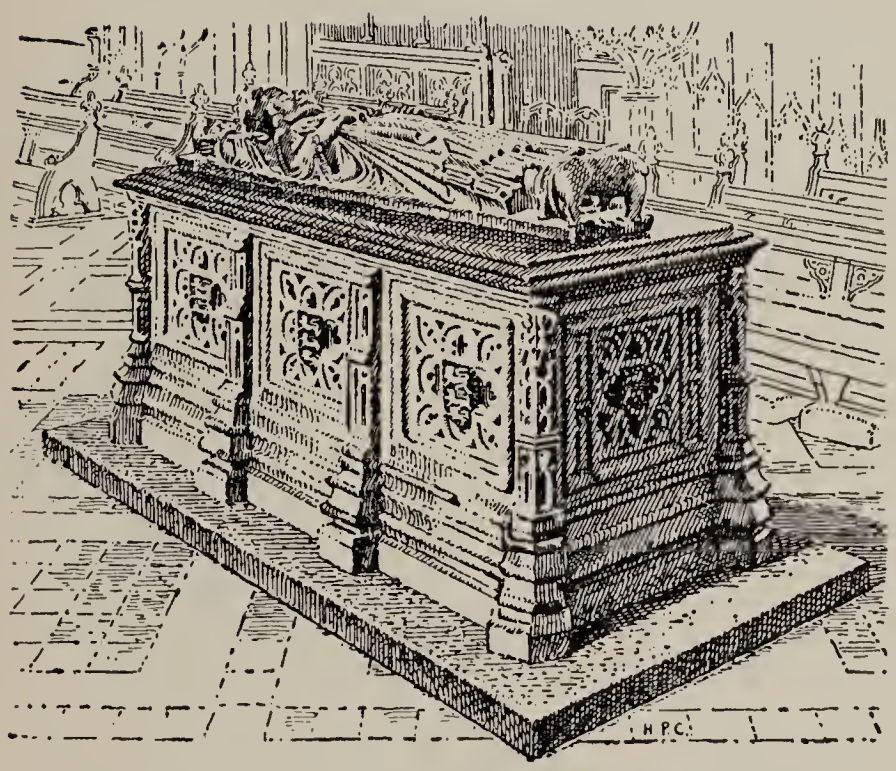
[1]Louis VIII, father of St. Louis.



FACSIMILE OF A PORTION OF MAGNA CHARTA (page 69).
From the official reproduction by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum

At length, as he was one day fording the River Welland with his troops, the tide came up before the whole army had crossed, and washed away all the king's baggage, while many of his soldiers were drowned. This caused such vexation to John that it made him ill. The same night at supper he ate heartily of some peaches, and drank a quantity of new beer, with the result that he took a fever of which he died.

The death of this bad king saved England from great troubles. The barons no longer needed the help of the French, and Louis had



Tomb of King John in Worcester Cathedral

to return, though very unwillingly, to his own country.

The new king was John's son Henry, a boy nine years of age, and the people hoped that the great barons would teach the young king to rule wisely and justly.

FRIAR, SCHOLAR, AND BUILDER

St. Francis (d. 1226)



Statue of St. Francis of Assisi in Florence

While John, by his misdeeds, was winning an evil fame, there lived in Italy a man whose name even yet is like music to the ear. This was St. Francis, the "little poor man" of Assisi.

His father was a rich merchant, and Francis, with plenty of money to spend, used to lead the gay young men of Assisi in all their pranks. One night they crowned him king of the revel, and were marching with lighted torches through the streets, when they missed Francis from their midst.

They found him at last, alone and in a kind of trance. From that day Francis was a

changed man. He gave his money freely to the poor, and spent his days in caring for the leper and the outcast.

His father cast him off and took his money from him. But Francis gladly gave up to his father even the clothes that he wore. It was his pleasure, he said, to live even as his Lord had lived when He dwelt upon the earth. Dressed only in an old cloak, the gift of some pitying friend, he went off into the woods singing as he walked.



Franciscan Friar

He was as gay as a knight errant singing the praises of his lady, but his lady was the "Lady Poverty", and he was true to her all his days. Many followed him and learned his way of life, for he seemed to have found the secret of happiness; and so he gathered many round him.

They built themselves little huts of branches and twigs, near an old chapel, but they had no fixed home. Two and two they went out,

dressed like peasants, and working in the fields for their daily bread. They slept under hedges or in barns, and wherever they went they preached to the poor and simple, and nursed the sick.

They were so happy and full of song that they were called "God's jugglers".[1] Francis had a playful way of teaching his brothers, or "friars", to obey without question. He once sent two of them into a garden to plant a cabbage, and told them to plant it upside down. The older friar meekly obeyed, but the younger man objected, and Francis gravely reproved him for thinking himself wiser than his master!

Fearless as the Knights of the Cross, Francis also went out against the Saracens. But he went without sword or shield, for his aim was not to conquer in battle but to win them to the faith. He was once taken prisoner in Egypt and brought before the Sultan; but even there he rejoiced, for he was glad of a chance to preach the Gospel to his captor.

Francis loved all the beautiful things of nature. He called them his brothers and sisters, and the birds and beasts knew and trusted him. The birds would crowd around him, arching

[1] A "juggler" was at one time no more than a wandering minstrel.

their necks and fluttering their wings, while he stroked them and sent them off with a blessing. He even preached them a little sermon, which has been kept to this day.

The only creature that received no mercy from Francis was his own body. It had a hard master in Francis. Ill-fed and poorly clad, his body wasted away with the many labors put upon it. But even for " brother ass " Francis had a kindly word; for when he was dying he begged its pardon for having used it so ill.

Though St. Francis was dead, his work went on. The grey friars, as his followers were called from their grey cloaks, went into every land preaching to the poor and tending the sick. In cities like London and Oxford they built their lowly huts in the poorest parts, often choosing to live among the lepers. There they toiled, living on such scanty food as the poor could give them.

In the work of preaching to the people the black friars also bore a part. These were the followers of St. Dominic, who lived in Spain about the same time as St. Francis. Together these two orders of " begging friars ", as they were called, did a great work in teaching the

people and bringing them into the fold of the Church.

Roger Bacon (d. 1294)

Among the grey friars none holds a more honored name than an Englishman named Roger Bacon. He gave all his life to studies for which the learned men of his day cared but little. Hebrew and Arabic he studied, and spent many years in hunting out old forgotten books. But, not content with learning from books, he made experiments and tried to win the secrets of nature, till people shook their heads and said he was dealing in magic.

So Roger Bacon was forbidden to go on with his studies. For many years he was kept a close prisoner in Paris, and was not even allowed to use pen and ink. But at last the Pope, who knew something of Roger's work, sent word that he was to be allowed to write. Roger set to work alone and without help. Month after month he wrote in learned Latin, and after little more than a year his " Greater Work " was finished.

It was indeed a great work, for into it was pressed all that was then known in all the sciences, with much that Roger had found for

himself. The book was sent off to Rome, but it brought no reward to its author. He remained, as he said himself, "unheard, forgotten, buried", and it was left for later ages to do him honor.

Many of the things which Roger foretold were to come true hundreds of years later. Thus he tells how by the use of glasses one may read the smallest letters at a great distance. He describes a car that will go of itself — very like the motor cars of to-day. "It is possible", he says again, "to make instruments for flying, so that a man sitting in the middle thereof, and steering with a kind of rudder, may . . . divide and pass through the air."

The great aim of the early chemists, such as Roger Bacon, was to find a way of turning lead or iron into gold. The stuff that was to work this change they called the philosopher's stone; and in many a secret chamber the learned men of Europe were eagerly grinding powders and mixing fluids to make this wondrous stone.

They never found it, and in later ages men smiled at the lost labor of these early chemists. But in our days we have found a wonderful metal called radium, which is teaching us that

the "philosopher's stone" was not such an idle dream after all.

The Masons

While Roger Bacon was seeking in vain for this wonderful stone, other workers were doing marvels with the common stone of the quarry.

Young Roger, tramping as a poor student from his home in Somerset to Oxford, may have stopped at Wells to watch the masons at work on the cathedral there. The old walls had been taken down, and a new building was rising in its place.

Round the walls clustered the wooden huts or lodges of the masons. Many of these must have been men of Wells, who had learned their craft in the school of masons belonging to the cathedral. The craft would likely run in families, and chisel and line would pass from father to son many times ere the great church was built.

Many of the workers, however, would be drawn from distant towns. In other crafts the workmen of those days could ply their trade only in their own town; but the masons were free to look for work wherever their skill was needed. It may have been this right that gave



Figure of Seated Noble, Wells Cathedral (West Front)

them the name of " free masons ".

Those busy masons have long since packed up their tools and passed out of our sight, but their work remains to this day. There on the front of Wells Cathedral, rank above rank, are three hundred figures carved in stone; a gallant company of kings and queens, nobles and bishops, with many a Bible scene pictured in stone for the people to see.

In all Europe there is only one man of that day whose name is still remembered for the beauty of his carving — the Italian, Nicholas of Pisa. Yet good judges say that his work is equalled by the carved kings and queens of these unknown masons at Wells.

If we would see more homely folk than kings and queens we need only go a day's journey from London to the Cathedral of Salisbury.

Here the masons have carved the likeness of many a one who used to worship long ago within its walls. We may see the monk and the nun, the lady in her robes, the merchant, the sailor, and the peasant.

There is an old rhyme that sings the praise of this church:

"As many days as in one year there be,
So many windows in this church you see.
As many marble pillars here appear
As there are hours, through the fleeting year.
As many gates as moons one here does view,
Strange tale to tell, yet not more strange than true."

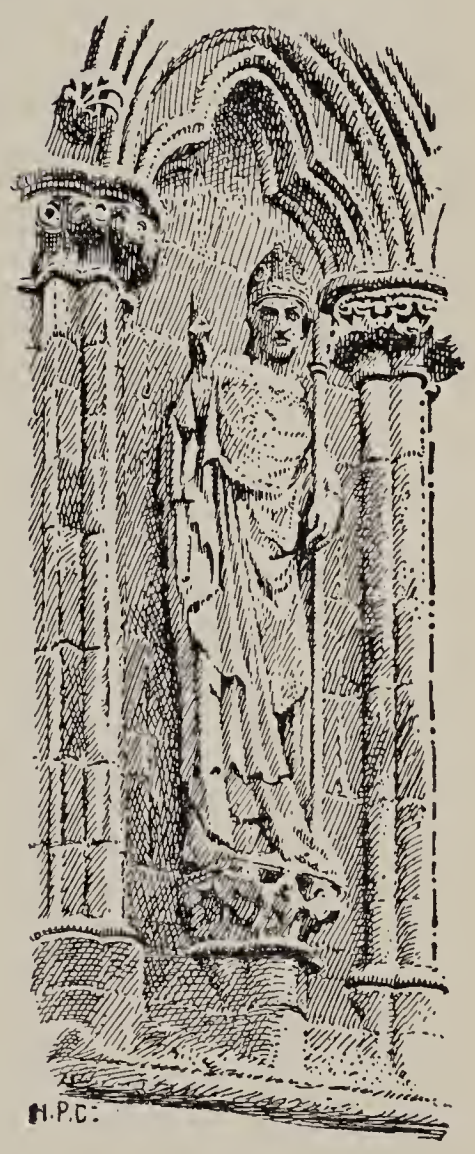


Figure of St. Augustine, Salisbury Cathedral (West Front)

This rhyme leaves out the chief glory of Salisbury — its spire. A marvel of the builder's skill, it soars into the air 400 feet high, the tallest spire in England. Its "silent finger" pointing to heaven is a landmark for all the country round about.

Among the treasures of the church below is a copy of Magna Carta. It is said to have been placed here for safe keeping by one of the barons who saw John set his seal to the charter. For this is one of many churches that were built in the time of John's son, Henry III, when the barons had need to guard the charter well.



SALISBURY CATHEDRAL

With the exception of the tower and spire (404 feet in height), Salisbury Cathedral was built during the first half of the 13th Century

EARL SIMON OF MONTFORT

Governor of Gascony

In the reign of John, a great churchman was the leader of those who stood up boldly against misrule. In the reign of John's son, Henry III, the lead was taken by a great baron.

Simon of Montfort was not by birth an Englishman. He was the son of a great French warrior lord, and was born about the year 1208. Brought up in the north of France, at the castle of Montfort from which he took his name, he came as a young man to England, and was kindly received by King Henry.



Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester. From a window in Chartres Cathedral

He was handsome, brave, and skillful in war; indeed he was reckoned the finest soldier of his day. When he married Henry's sister Eleanor, and by and

by succeeded to the earldom of Leicester, he became the most striking and important figure at the English Court.



Silver Penny, Henry III

It was not very long before a quarrel arose between Simon and the king. Henry was a weak, foolish king: a far better man than his father, but of feeble will and fretful temper.

The exact cause of his quarrel with Simon is not known, but he made such charges against the earl that Simon felt himself obliged to leave England. He went on a Crusade, but when he returned he overlooked Henry's unkindness, and fought well for him in some battles in France.

A few years later, Simon thought of going on another Crusade, but other work was given him to do. Gascony, a province in the south of France, was the only one of all Henry II's French lands which now belonged to the English king. (See map in appendix.)

There were constant troubles in the province, for many of the lords wished to have the King of France for their king instead of Henry. There was no peace in the



French Knight of the Early Thirteenth Century

country, and the state of the poorer people was very wretched.

Henry made Simon governor of Gascony, knowing that he was wise and brave and a skillful leader. Simon proved a stern and terrible governor. He destroyed castles belonging to the rebel lords, and put down the bands of robber knights who roamed over the country burning and plundering; he took the part of the poor and weak against the rich and strong.

Several times he put down revolts, and spent immense sums of his own money in the service of the king. Henry showed himself very ungrateful. He listened to mean and spiteful stories about Simon, which said that the troubles in Gascony were caused by the governor's cruelty.

Simon demanded to be tried before his fellow lords, and at the trial he made a strong defense against the charges brought against him.

He finished with the scornful cry: "Your witness against me is worthless, for you are all liars and traitors!"

Simon's defense was so good, that the company of lords with one voice declared him innocent.

But the very next day the king picked a quarrel with the earl. Simon asked Henry to keep a promise he had made when appointing him governor of Gascony. Henry replied that he would keep no promise made to a traitor.

"That word is a lie!" Simon cried angrily; "and were you not my sovereign, an ill hour would it be for you in which you dared to utter it."

A few days later Henry said to him: "Go back to Gascony, thou lover and maker of strife!" Simon quietly answered: "Gladly will I go; nor do I think to return till I have made thine enemies thy footstool, ungrateful though thou be."



French Knight of Later Thirteenth Century

The Provisions of Oxford

One of Henry's worst faults was the favor he showed to foreigners, filling his Court with Frenchmen and Italians, who treated the English barons with pride and scorn. Henry spent large sums of money upon them, and most of this money had to be supplied by the English barons. They had to get the money from their tenants, and thus the whole nation suffered.

Another thing in which Henry displeased his people was in his dealings with the Church. Up to the reign of John, the Pope had been looked up to only as the head of the Church, but when John actually did homage to him, the Pope began to claim much more power in England than he had ever had before.

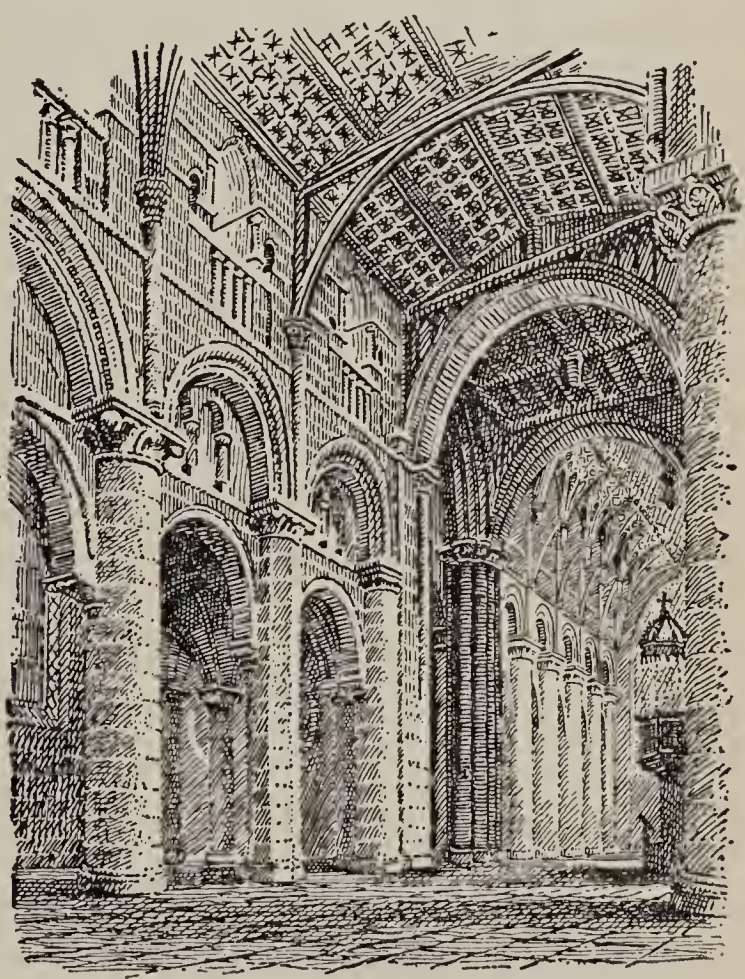
The clergy and the barons were obliged to give him much money. Foreigners were made ministers of English churches, and some of them never came to England at all, but enjoyed the wealth of their English offices at their foreign homes. This was unfair to the English clergy.

These and other things were so much disliked by the barons that they made up their minds to put a stop to them. A meeting of the

Great Council, or Parliament as it now began to be called, took place at Oxford.

Here Henry was obliged to consent to the Provisions of Oxford, a plan of reform drawn up by Simon and his friends. The foreign favorites were to be sent away, and the king was only to act by the advice of a special council of fifteen. Thus the barons became masters of the country.

About this time, Henry was one day going in his barge up the Thames, when he was overtaken by a sudden thunderstorm. Fearing its violence, he ordered the boat to be run ashore, and took refuge in the house in which Simon then lived.



S. Frideswide's Priory Church (now the Cathedral) Oxford

Simon welcomed the king, and told him not to fear, as the storm

was well nigh over. "I fear beyond measure the thunder and lightning," replied the king; "but I fear you more than all the thunder and lightning in the world."

"Fear your enemies, my lord king," was Simon's answer; "fear those who flatter you to your ruin, not me, your constant and faithful friend."

Simon Against the King

King Henry soon began to show that he would not tamely put up with being ruled by his barons. He was helped by quarrels among them. Simon was not trusted by them all; he was a foreigner himself, and had a hasty overbearing temper, and for these reasons he was disliked by some of the barons.

Henry soon broke his promise to observe the Provisions of Oxford. He brought back to England some of the foreigners who had been sent away, and showed that things would soon be as bad as they had been before.

There was nothing left for the barons to do but to take up arms. Simon was marked out as their natural leader. He was trusted by the people, who believed he was thinking more



By permission of Mrs. David Soskice

THE LAST MARCH OF EDWARD I

From the painting by W. Bell Scott, H.R.S.A.

of the good of the nation than of any gain for himself.

Earl Simon acted promptly and with vigor. Foreigners were again sent out of the country, and Dover was captured; then Simon sent a letter to the citizens of London, asking for their support. They gave it gladly, and kept Henry almost a prisoner in the Tower of London.

The people were delighted at the thought of getting a better government, and loved Earl Simon more than ever. A verse of a song of the time says:

"Montfort is he rightly called,
He is the mount and he is bold,[1]
And has great chivalry;
The truth I tell, my troth I plight,
He hates the wrong, he loves the right,
So shall have mastery."

The earl marched to London, and the king once more agreed to the Provisions of Oxford, sent away his ministers, and gave their places to men chosen by the barons.

In order to have matters settled once for all, and peaceably, both the king and the barons

[1]In French, Montfort means "bold mount", mont = mount, fort = bold.

agreed to ask Louis, the saintly king of France, to decide the dispute between them. His judgment was entirely in Henry's favor, but nothing else could have been expected, for one king would not be likely to say that the power of any other king, in his own country, should be lessened.

The question now before the barons was: Is England to be a free nation, or is she to be bound down by foreign favorites and foreign priests? It must be remembered that the best of the English clergy were on the side of the barons.

They did not reject outright the French king's award; they took up one part of it, which said that England was to enjoy what rights she had before the Provisions of Oxford. They said that Henry had not observed the Great Charter, which secured these rights to the nation, and they were resolved to make him observe it.

Earl Simon himself said: "Though all should leave me, I and my four sons will uphold the cause of justice, as I have sworn to do, for the honor of the Church and the good of the realm."

The End of Simon, 1265



Seal of Simon de Montfort

Civil war broke out. There was no peace in the land; everywhere there was killing, burning, and robbing. Peaceful towns and villages were filled with the horrid sounds of battle. Women and children trembled for the safety of their loved ones, and wept for the loss of those who were slain.

After several sieges and lesser fights, a great battle was fought near Lewes. It was won by Earl Simon after a hard fight, and King Henry and his son Edward were taken prisoners.

Simon was now ruler of the country. He at once set about putting the government in order. Power was to be in the hands of nine councillors, who were to consult a Parliament formed of the barons, the chief clergy, four knights from each county, and also, for the first time in English history, two citizens from each of certain towns.

This Parliament met on January 30, 1265. The fact that the towns sent members to it has led to Simon's being called the founder of the House of Commons.

The Parliament was not to make the laws as it does now; it was to see that the king and his ministers ruled in accordance with the law — which meant simply the old customs of the country.

Earl Simon's power did not last long. He was still distrusted by some of the nobles, and one of his strongest supporters left him, while the king still had many friends, who were working hard for him.

At length Prince Edward escaped, by a daring trick, from the captivity in which he had been kept since the battle of Lewes. A new horse had just been given to him, and he said that he wished to try its paces.

One day he went out with his attendants, and rode races with them till their horses were tired. Then he sprang upon a fresh horse, and galloped off. "Good day, my lords," he cried, "go tell my father I shall soon see him out of ward."

At once the king's supporters gathered around the prince, and Earl Simon saw that a

hard fight was before him. His own army was small, and he sent to his son Simon, bidding him come to his help at Hereford.

The young man did not hurry, and when he reached his father's castle at Kenilworth, he foolishly allowed his troops to sleep in the village, instead of in the castle. They were surprised by Edward at early morning, many were captured, and all their arms and baggage fell into the hands of the king's soldiers.

Earl Simon, knowing nothing of his son's mishap, went towards Evesham to meet him. He soon learned to his sorrow that the forces seen advancing were those of Edward, and, watching them from a hill, he admired the way they came on.

"It is from me that they have learned that order," he said. As he saw how much larger Edward's army was than his own, the brave earl knew that defeat and death were near. "Now let us commend our souls to God, for our bodies belong to our enemies."

Simon was urged to flee, but he refused. There was a desperate fight; the earl had a horse killed under him, but fought on foot, dealing hard blows with the sword which he wielded with both hands. At length a blow from

behind struck him down, and he died murmuring: "It is God's grace."



Henry III. From his tomb in Westminster Abbey

Simon of Montfort was a good and a great man. He was sober and simple in his life; a lover of books, and of good conversation. Simon the Righteous, he was called by the people.

His faults were his pride, his fierce temper, and his love of gain; but there is no doubt that he had a real love for his adopted country, and worked hard to secure freedom for Englishmen.

After his death his cause triumphed, for King Henry left the government in the hands of his son Edward, who ruled very much in the way that Earl Simon would have wished.

THE STORY OF EDWARD THE FIRST

I. Edward's Early Years



Great Seal of Edward I

All the kings who ruled England from the time of William the Conqueror to Henry III were far more Norman than English. Their names were French; they spoke French; their lands in France took up a great deal of their attention.

Edward I was the first king of England since the Conquest who bore an old English name. He was also the first who showed a real desire to understand Englishmen, and to make England, by aid of the English, a great power in Europe. The work he did and the wisdom he showed make him one of the greatest of English sovereigns.

In character he was altogether unlike his grandfather, John, and his father, Henry. His will was strong, but he was not obstinate. He



CARNARVON CASTLE (page 143)

The " Eagle Tower " at the far end is pointed out as the birthplace of the first Prince of Wales

was a good son, a good husband, and a good father.

He lived purely and simply, and did not care for show or fine dress. "I should not be a better king," he said once, "however splendidly I was dressed." He loved truth and justice; his actions were upright; his motto was "Keep troth", and he was faithful to it.

His one great fault was a passionate temper, which sometimes blazed forth with terrible fury. On one occasion when Edward was thundering at a meeting of the clergy, the Dean of St. Paul's fell dead from fright. But Edward's wrath sank away as quickly as it rose.

Towards the end of Henry's reign, Edward went on a Crusade. He won one great victory over the Saracens at Nazareth, but did little else in Palestine.

One hot June evening, as Edward was sitting lightly clad upon his bed in his tent at Acre, a messenger came to him with an urgent message from one of the Saracen chiefs. This chief had said that he wished to become a Christian, and Edward willingly received his messenger.

The man entered the tent, and from his belt took a letter, which he gave to Edward. As the prince was opening it, the man struck at

his heart with a dagger. Edward warded off the blow with his arm; then, springing up, he felled the man to the earth, and killed him.

Edward's wound was dressed, but after a time the flesh around it showed signs of poisoning. The prince's attendants looked sad, and the doctors whispered together.

"What are you whispering about?" cried the prince; "can I not be cured? Speak out, and fear not." His English doctor replied: "You may be cured, Sire, but only at the price of great suffering."

Edward then bade the doctor do with him whatever he pleased. Edward's wife, Eleanor, whom he dearly loved, wished to stay with him, but the doctor ordered her away, and she was led out weeping. "It is better, lady," said the attendants, "that you should weep than the whole of England."

Then the doctor cut away the poisoned flesh, and in a few days Edward had quite recovered. At a later time a pretty story was told, that Eleanor herself sucked the poison from her husband's wound.

Edward was recalled to England by news of his father's serious illness. Before he reached

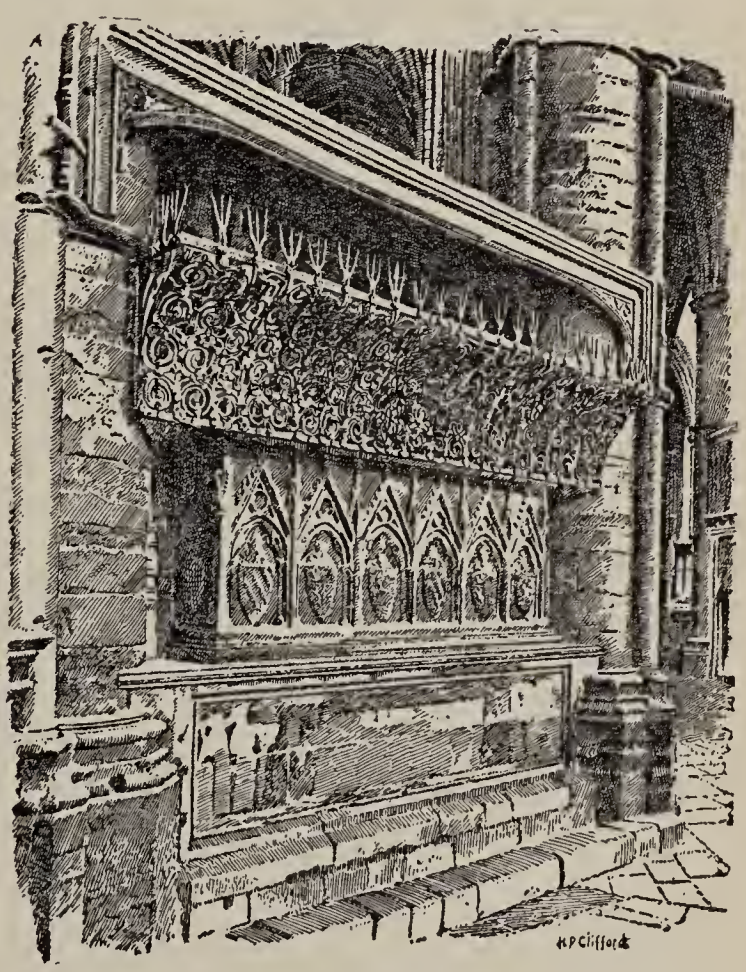
home Henry was dead, and the prince became, as the age of thirty-three, King Edward I.

II. Edward Conquers Wales

For many years there had been troubles between the English and their neighbors in Wales. The people of Wales were descendants of the ancient Britons, and would not submit either to the rule of the Saxons or of the Normans.

They loved their freedom; and under their own princes they were constantly at war with the English kings.

The chief of the Welsh princes, Llewelyn, had helped Simon of Montfort; but on the defeat of Simon he had done homage to Henry III.



Tomb of Queen Eleanor (wife of Edward I) in Westminster Abbey



Soldier of Time of Edward I

But when Edward became king, Llewelyn refused to do homage to him. An old prophecy of a British wizard, Merlin, had said that some day a Welch prince should be crowned in London. Llewelyn, a brave and clever man, fancied that he was that prince, and that he would become a great British king.

Edward, who already in his youth had fought in Wales, led an army against the Welsh prince. He went with great caution, taking care that, as his army advanced, a fleet should sail along the coast, carrying food for the soldiers.

Llewelyn took refuge in the wild mountains of North Wales, but in the winter want of food compelled him to surrender.

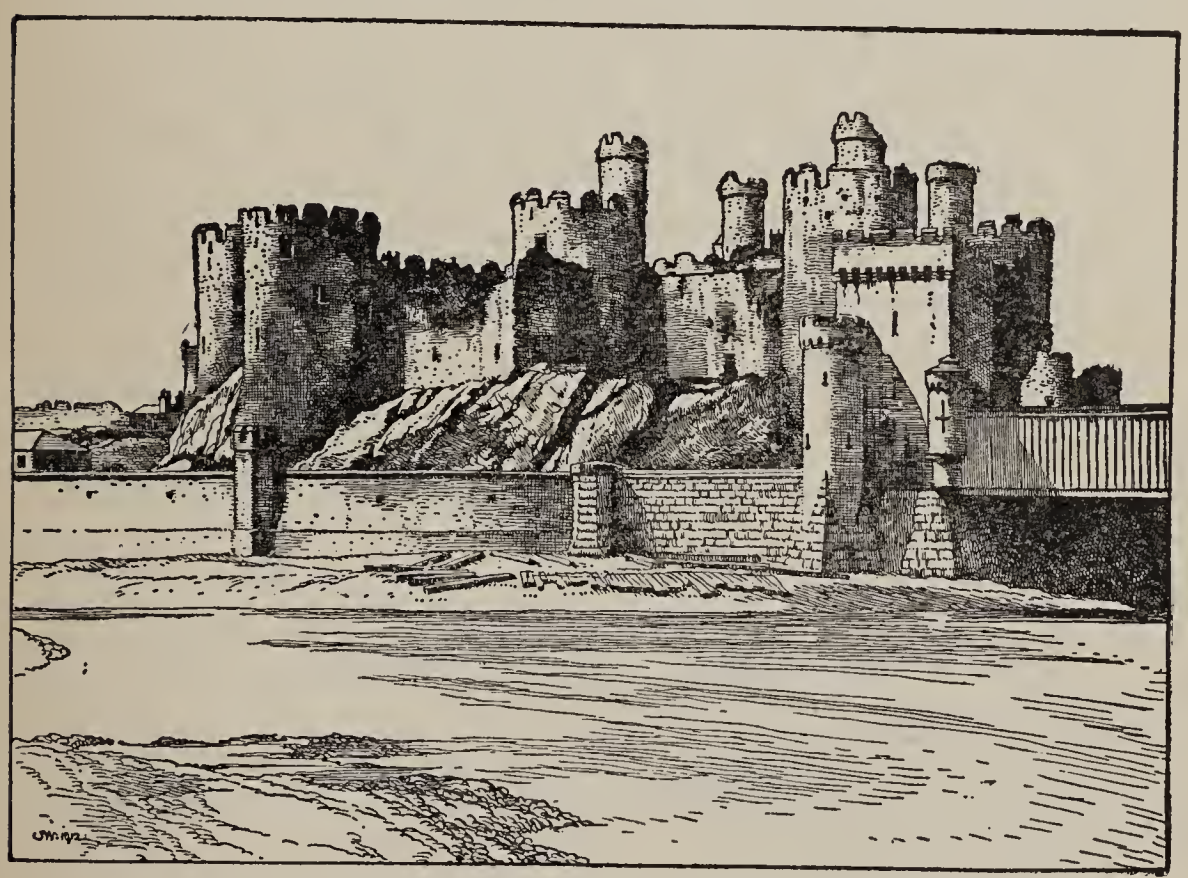
Edward then made an attempt to rule the Welsh. But he did not understand them, and, though he himself wished to be just, the offi-

cers he appointed to act for him were harsh and cruel.

A new rising of the Welsh was the result. Edward led another army against them, and Llewelyn again took refuge in the Snowdon mountains.

But Llewelyn was soon killed, and his brother David, who had helped him, was captured and beheaded. Edward then took Wales as a part of his kingdom.

He ruled it by English law, but he put several Welshmen in places of honor as his officers,



Conway Castle. Erected by Edward I in 1284

and tried to keep some of the old Welsh customs. To make all secure, Edward set up a strong line of castles and fortified towns. (See map in appendix.)

Sixteen years later Edward created his eldest son the first Prince of Wales, and gave him the government of that country. The young prince was born in Wales, and had a Welsh nurse, so the Welsh people were fond of him, and looked upon him as one of themselves.

In later years, when the prince became King Edward II, and suffered cruel misfortunes, the Welsh people did their best to help him.

Edward Invades Scotland

Edward, having conquered Wales, wished to bring Scotland also under English rule. That country had up to this time been separate from England, and was ruled by kings of its own.

In Edward's time, it happened that the sovereign of Scotland was a little girl, daughter of the King of Norway, who had married a Scottish princess. The little queen was not yet four years old, and was known as the Maid of Norway.

Edward thought that it would be well if the two kingdoms were ruled by one sovereign; so

he proposed that the Maid, when old enough, should become the wife of his son Edward. The Scots agreed to this, and King Edward sent to fetch the little girl from her home in Norway.

He sent with the ship plenty of the things that he thought the Maid might like, such as walnuts, figs, and gingerbread. But she was a delicate little thing, and the voyage across the rough North Sea was too much for her.

She became ill, and the ship put into the Orkney Islands. There the poor little queen died.

Her death was the cause of much trouble to Scotland. There was no near heir to the throne, which was claimed by several nobles. Two of these, John Baliol and Robert Bruce, had a stronger claim than the others.

The Scots, fearing that civil war might break out, asked King Edward to decide which of these two had the better right to the crown. Edward accepted the task and decided for John Baliol, who promised to rule as his vassal, and at once did homage to him.



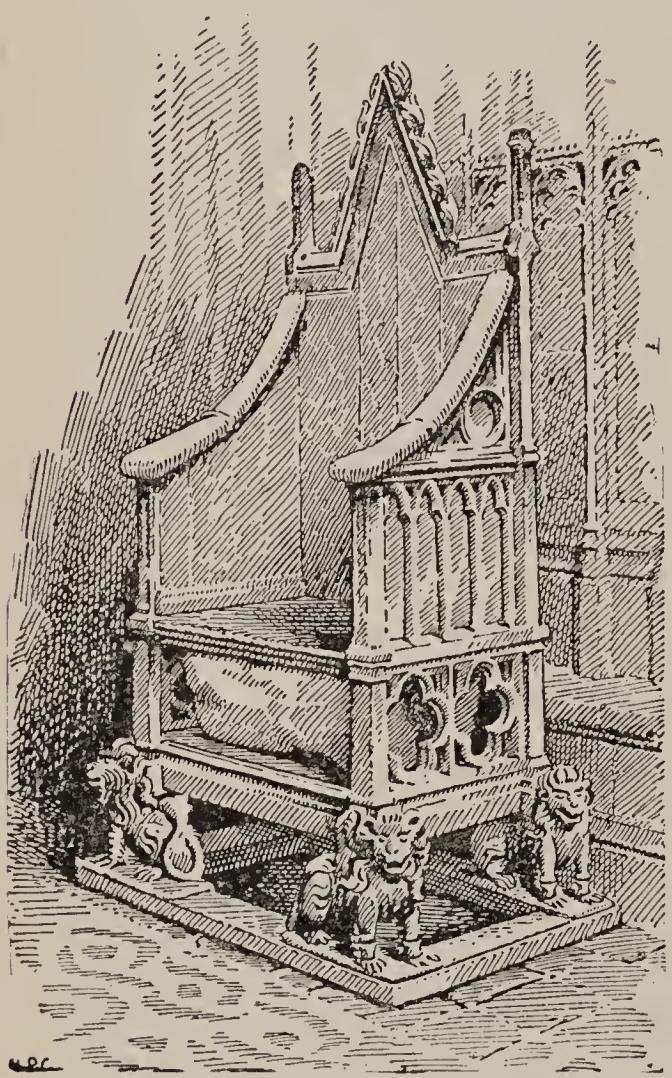
Coin of John Baliol

Afterwards, when Edward demanded that Baliol should appear at

his Court to answer for some action of his, the Scottish lords would not allow their king to obey. Edward at once sent an army to Scotland to punish Baliol for not obeying.

Edward captured Berwick, then the chief seaport of Scotland. One of his generals won a great victory at Dunbar, and in four months Baliol submitted and resigned the crown to Edward.

To show that he meant Scotland to be no longer a separate kingdom, Edward carried the Scottish crown and the royal jewels away to England. With them he took the stone upon which for ages past the kings of Scotland had been crowned, a stone which people said was the one on which Jacob had rested his head at Bethel.



Coronation Chair, Westminster Abbey

That stone may

now be seen in Westminster Abbey, beneath the seat of the chair in which all English sovereigns since that time have sat at their coronation.

Sir William Wallace

Edward was not to rule Scotland in peace. He had promised, as in the case of Wales, to rule justly, after the old Scottish customs, but his ministers were severe and unjust, and the Scots rose up against them.

Their leader was Sir William Wallace, whose life was one of strange adventure and daring deeds. He was a bitter enemy to the English, and his enmity arose, it is said, in the following way:

One day he was stopped in the streets of Lanark by some of the English soldiers, who declared that he had no right to be wearing a sword.

Words led to blows, and Wallace, who was a very tall and strong man, slew one of the soldiers after a brief struggle, and put the rest to flight. But he then had to flee, or the governor of the town would have put him to death for what he had done.

He escaped; but the governor, a man of cruel

nature, broke into his house and killed his wife. This roused Wallace's heart to a deep and lasting hatred of the English. He gathered around him a host of devoted followers, and resolved to turn the English out of Scotland if he could.

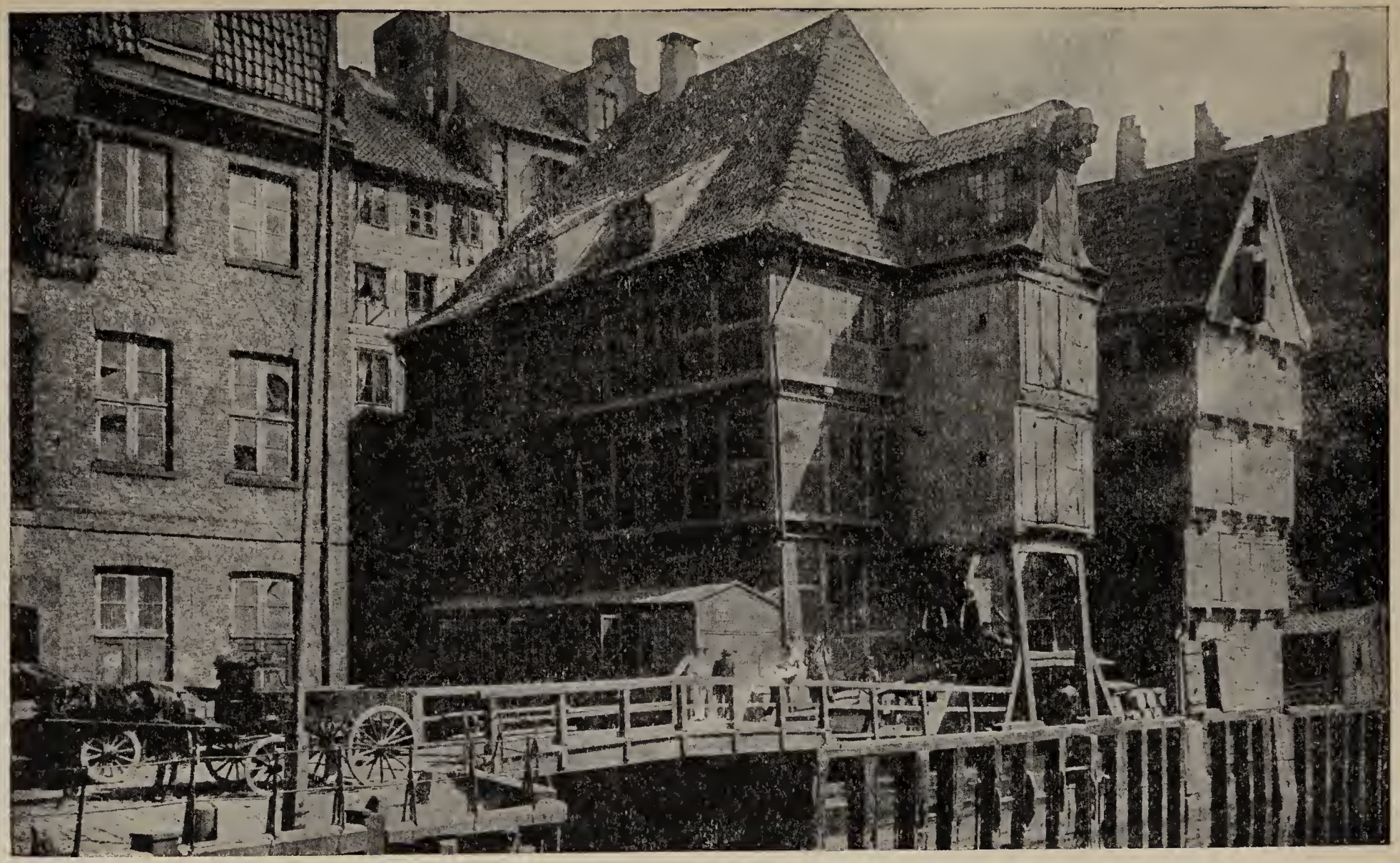
After several small successes, he at last gained a great victory at Stirling, which forced the English to leave the country. The Scottish people then made Wallace governor of Scotland. and he tried by wise and just rule to bring back prosperity to the land.



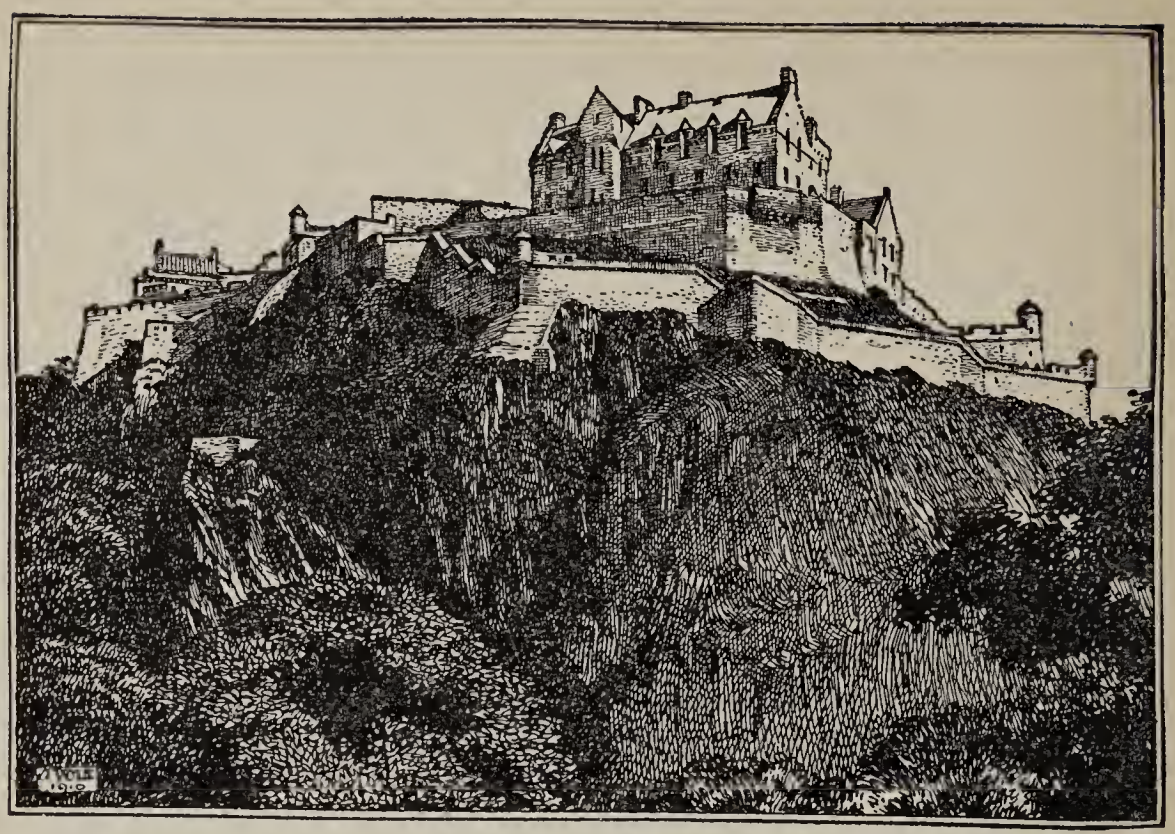
Statue of Wallace on the Monument at Stirling

During all this time Edward was in Flanders. When he returned he resolved to regain Scotland at any cost, and gathering together an army of 80,000 men, he marched towards the north.

He took Edinburgh, but then serious troubles began. Wallace, who had only been able to get together a force of 20,000 men, was unwilling



OLD WAREHOUSES OF THE HANSA LEAGUE IN HAMBURG (page 159)



Edinburgh Castle (present day)

to meet Edward in the open field. So he retreated before him, laying waste the land as he went.

Edward's army soon began to suffer, as Wallace had destroyed all the crops and food supplies. Moreover, the ships that Edward expected from England with provisions did not arrive.

When he was in this plight, and had given orders to retreat, the news came that Wallace was encamped at Falkirk, and was going to follow close upon the retreating English and make a night attack upon them.

Edward rejoiced when he heard this. "As the Lord lives," he cried, "there will be no need for them to follow me, for on this very day I will march forward and meet them face to face." He advanced, and although, on the very morning of the battle, two of his ribs were broken by a kick from a horse, he led his army to the fight.

The battle was fierce and long. Again and again the mail-clad horsemen of England charged the Scottish spearmen, and again and again they were driven back. At times the whole Scottish army, quite surrounded by the masses of the attacking party, seemed lost.

But again the attack would grow less, and the Scottish spearmen, the front ranks kneeling, those behind standing, would be seen unbroken as before. At last Edward withdrew the cavalry and threw forward the archers — those English archers who have decided so many a hard-fought fight.

Arrows fell like hail upon the Scottish ranks, and where never a horseman had been able to break through, the arrows cut wide gaps. A charge of cavalry completed the defeat, and Scotland seemed once more to be in Edward's power.

In the end Wallace was betrayed into the hands of Edward, who had him tortured without mercy, and put to death. This conduct is a great blot on the name of one of the greatest of English kings.

Edward Loses Scotland

The Scots mourned the death of their hero, but they were not long left without a leader. Another great man arose to carry on the work of winning back Scottish freedom — Robert Bruce, grandson of the Bruce who had been the rival of Baliol.

Bruce, as a noble, had the help of the other nobles as well as of the people. Of Wallace the nobles had always been jealous, and they had given him very little support.

Edward was now old and infirm, but his mind was still set on mastering the Scots. Again he marched northwards, though so feeble that he had to be carried on a litter.

At Carlisle he mounted his horse and led his army in person, but so weak was he that in four days he only managed to ride six miles. At the village of Burgh-on-Sands he became very ill, and could go no farther.

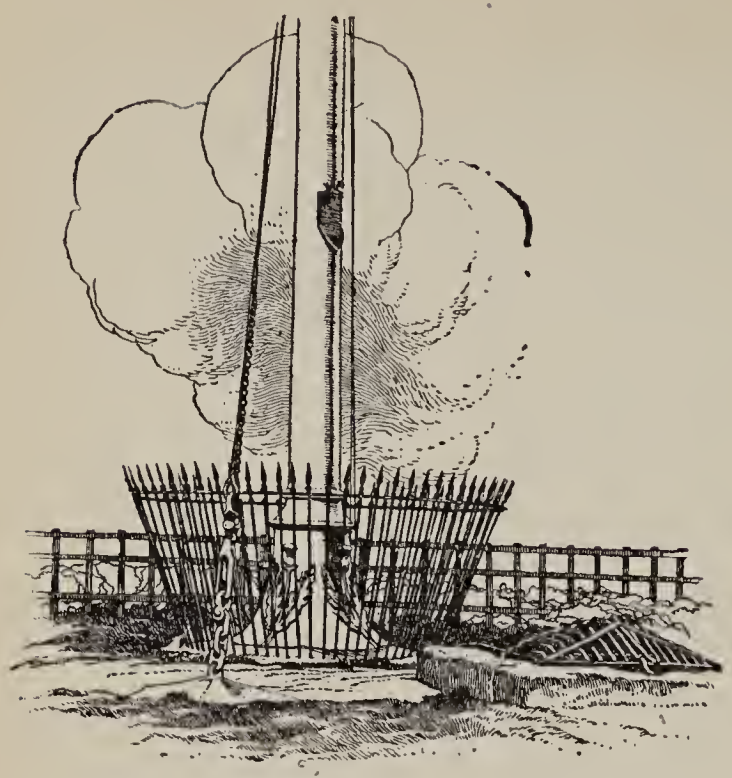
As he lay dying he left a message for his son Edward who was in London. He begged him to go on with the war, and to carry his bones at the head of the army, so that, though dead, the great warrior might seem to lead his soldiers against the enemy.

Then he died, at the age of sixty-eight, an age which few men reached in those days. The great king was buried in Westminster Abbey, where we can read on his plain grey marble monument Latin words which mean, " This is Edward the First, the hammer of the Scots — keep troth ".

Although the Scottish war did not come to an end during Edward's reign, this will be a good place to tell how Scotland at last won back her freedom.

Robert Bruce having been crowned king gradually took fort after fort and castle after castle, till Stirling was the only strong place in Scotland remaining in English hands.

Edward II, a weak-willed and foolish man, gave himself up to pleasure, and for a time paid no heed to his great father's last words. At last he set off to the relief of Stirling. The largest and most splendid army that ever entered Scotland was got together and at the



The Bore Stone (covered with an iron grating), in which Bruce is said to have planted his standard on the field of Bannockburn. The flagstaff was erected in 1870, and is 120 feet high

little stream of Bannockburn near Stirling it met the army of Bruce.

Bruce, like Wallace, was a great general. But he was more fortunate than Wallace in having only an unskilled warrior to fight against, instead of the able and warlike Edward I.

Moreover he had a good body of cavalry in his army, and did not depend entirely on his foot soldiers. When the English archers came into action, Bruce charged them with his horse, and scattered them to the winds. He thus avoided the fate that befell Wallace's army at Falkirk.

By skillful generalship he completely overthrew the English host. From that time until his death Bruce ruled Scotland wisely and well,

and kept his country free from the power of England.

Edward's Work for England

The lessons which Edward I had learned during the last years of his father's reign helped him to rule wisely when he himself became king.

Great as he was as a warrior, he was just as great as a lawgiver. He made many changes for the better in the way of carrying out the law, and so made it easier for people to have justice done to them.

Edward started the tax known as the Customs. Needing much money to pay the expenses of his government, he laid a tax on every sack of wool sent out of England. This he did with the consent of Parliament. The troubles of his father's reign had shown him that the king would be most truly powerful if he trusted the people.



Seal of the Statute Merchant, Gloucester

It is to Edward, then, that England owes its present form of government. He called together

many Parliaments during the first twenty years of his reign, and at length, in 1295, he summoned a Parliament in which all the different classes of the people — the clergy, the nobility, and the commons — had someone to speak for them. This is sometimes known as the Model Parliament.

The barons came in person; the clergy sent their bishops and other chief men; the people sent two knights from each county, two citizens from each city, and two men from each borough.

Thus Edward took care that everyone who had to obey the laws should have a voice in making them.

LEAGUES OF FREEMEN

The Easterlings

Let us now turn aside for a little to see what had been happening on the Continent during Edward's reign, for we often find that the affairs of Europe had much to do with those of England.

On a winter day in 1257 (when Edward I of England was still a youth) a stately company appeared before the old German city of Frankfort. They had come to choose the German king, but they found the gates shut in their faces.

The trouble was a quarrel amongst the seven electors who had the right of choosing the German king. Those who were shut out chose Richard of Cornwall, brother of Henry III of England; the others chose a Spanish prince. This was the weakness of the German kingdom — that seven men chose the king, and chose the man who paid them best.

Now Germany badly needed a strong king. The German king, you should remember, was called King of the Romans, and claimed the proud title of Emperor, with lands in Italy as

well as in Germany. But to make good this claim the German kings had to be crowned at Rome, and this was their undoing.

"Rome is like the lion's den in the fable," said one of them. "You may see the footsteps of many who have gone there, but of none who have come back."

To keep hold of their lands in Italy the Emperors had to loose their hold on Germany, for between their two realms rose the huge bulk of the Alps. This it was that broke the back of the Empire.

Now that Germany had two kings she was worse off than ever. Richard, after being crowned at Achen, the city of Charles the Great, went in state up the Rhine; but he soon had to go back to England for lack of money. The Spanish prince stayed at home in comfort and spent his time studying the stars. In Germany men said the stars had gone out, for these were years of misery.

Every little castle was the stronghold of some robber knight, who made war on his neighbors and robbed strangers on the road. The woods were unsafe; the farmer's fields were burned and his flocks stolen. Law was nowhere, and the sword settled everything.

The only power strong enough to stand up against the lawless flood was found in the free cities. These had been growing in number and wealth. Their gates stood open to give shelter to peasants fleeing from their cruel masters. The cities had before this begun to band themselves together to guard their traders from attack. These leagues of cities now grew in power.

The most famous of these leagues of towns was called the Hansa. Lubeck and Hamburg first joined hands to keep order in their neighborhood. Other cities came into the league, till at last there were nearly a hundred cities banded together to guard their common rights.

The fleets of the Hansa swept the sea of pirates, and on land their armed bands were a terror



Schloss Lichtenstein
A typical German Medieval Castle

to highway robbers. The merchants met in council, commonly at Lubeck, to manage the affairs of the Hansa, for with their far-spread trade there was much to look after.

In England they traded with Hull, Boston, Yarmouth, and with cities even as far north as Bergen, Norway. But their chief English depot was in London. The German merchants were known as the Easterlings, and they seem to have had a name for fair dealing, for coin of full value is still called sterling money.[1]

The London Easterlings lived by the Thames, in the Steel Yard (i. e., the yard where samples are kept), a place that has given its name to the rod used in weighing goods. Round the yard and the stores and houses of the merchants ran a high wall with heavy gates, and a broad flight of steps led down



Hansa Ship from the Town of Elbing

[1]Some think that it is so called from the coin being stamped with a star or with a bird (? starling).

to the river, where ships from abroad were unloaded.

In the Steel Yard the merchants were bound by strict rules. They were not allowed to marry, and lived as in a monastery, dining together in their common hall. They had need of their strong gates, for the Londoners were jealous of these foreign merchants, and were always ready to pick a quarrel. As time went on, the English sent out their own merchant ships into the Baltic to secure some of the trade which the Hansa wished to keep for itself.

The Easterlings came to the Steel Yard in greater numbers when Richard of Cornwall



Wharf of the Merchants of the Steel Yard in 1700

received the German crown; and his nephew, Edward I, showed them great favor and took them under his special charge.

The Swiss

We have seen already how the Alps broke the back of the Empire. "Of old sat Freedom on the heights" — so sang one of our poets. We have now to see how the men of the Alps won their freedom.

Among the northern Alps lies Lake Lucerne, one of the loveliest of lakes. The traveler from Italy, coming down from the St. Gothard Pass, follows a little stream fed by glaciers, and flowing at last into the blue waters of Lake Lucerne.

Here the traveler might lose his way among the many arms of the lake, for it is so broken up by mountain ridges that its shape is rather like a cross with a crumpled stem. But at the head of the cross, if he finds it, is a stream that will take him by winding courses to the Rhine, and so on to the North Sea.

It was around the ragged shores of Lake Lucerne that the Swiss people first won their freedom. The names of places on its banks recall the gallant deeds of that struggle, and, as the

boat glides past to the sound of the oars, the boatman will be glad to tell his guest the story of William Tell, the Swiss hero.

"The forest valleys that you see sloping down to the lake," he will tell you, "were free from early days, and owned no lord but the Emperor. But when the crown of the Empire passed to the House of Austria, a wicked steward, named Gessler, was set over us.

"This Gessler was a haughty and cruel man. To break the proud spirit of the peasants, he put a hat on a pole in yonder village that looks down on the lake, and bade all passers-by to bow before it.

"One day William Tell chanced to pass with his little son through the marketplace. He saw the hat upon the pole, but scorned to do so mean a thing as bow to it, and walked past with head erect.



Tell's Chapel, Lake Uri

Built on the rock where Tell is said to have sprung ashore from Gessler's boat

"Gessler was angry at the proud peasant, and had him seized by his soldiers. Then he bethought him of a way to punish Tell and make sport for himself.

"Tell was famous for his skill with the bow, so Gessler thought he would test his skill. He placed an apple on the head of Tell's little son, and ordered Tell to shoot the apple with an arrow. The poor father plead to be given any other punishment, but Gessler had no pity. Tell had no choice but to obey.

"Under the eyes of the tyrant, he took long and careful aim. The silence was broken by the twang of the bowstring as the arrow sped, true to the mark. Cleft in two, the apple fell to the ground, and the little boy stood safe and sound, saved by his father's skill.

"'You have another arrow left,' said Gessler. 'What would you have done with that?'

"'I would have shot you had I killed my child,' was the proud reply.

"Gessler vowed then and there to fling Tell into his dungeon. He set out in a boat, with his prisoner in chains, to cross the lake to his castle. But halfway over he was caught in one of those storms that sweep down from the valleys hereabouts.



TELL AND GESSLER IN THE MARKETPLACE AT ALTDORF

From the fresco by Professor E. Stückleberg, in the Tell Chapel

"Gessler knew the steadiness of his prisoner's hand, so he loosed his chains and gave him the helm. Tell steered for a point on the shore where there is a shelf rock. Do you see it there below the cliff? They still call it Tell's Rock.



Statue of William Tell at Altdorf

"Then, while the crew were busy with the boat, which seemed likely to be dashed upon the rocks, Tell seized his bow and arrows, sprang ashore, and was soon lost to sight among the trees.

"Gessler and his men got safely to shore in the end, but not till Tell had made good his escape. Chafing with anger, the tyrant made his way towards his castle. But as he passed through a thicket he fell, pierced to the heart. Tell's second arrow had found its mark at last."

Such is the boatman's story, and it is one of the great stories of the world. Yet scholars doubt it, for the name of William Tell is not found in the records of that time. But this we know, that the Swiss did win their freedom.

When the towns of Germany were forming their leagues, the men of the forest valleys round Lake Lucerne banded themselves together to defend their freedom. They had not the wealth of the cities, but, as Edward I found in Wales, the shelter of forest and cliff was a stronger defence than city walls.

In one of the valleys leading down to Lake Lucerne is the little town of Schwyz, which was a member of the league. Against this place Leopold of Austria led an army in 1315. From the laughter and high spirits of the knights and leaders, it seemed more like a hunting party than an army. What had they to fear from peasants?

Suddenly, in the narrow pass of Morgarten, a volley of rocks came bounding down upon them from the heights above. The Austrians were thrown into disorder, and when a moment later the Swiss rushed down from their hiding-place the battle was won.

As in Scotland, the mountains helped these

men in their struggle to be free. And so in 1315, a year after Bannockburn, the Swiss won their liberty at Morgarten. One valley after another joined the league, till out of the humble beginning at Schwyz has grown the Switzerland that we know to-day.



Altdorf. The scene of William Tell's exploits

TWO FAMOUS TRAVELERS
(About 1300)

Marco Polo



Hut Wagons of the Medieval Tartars. From Yule's Book of Marco Polo

In Roger Bacon's great book he tells all that was then known of the countries of the world; but he laments that much of it is only hearsay. Yet, even as he wrote, there lived a boy in Venice who was to add more to our knowledge of the world than almost any other traveler. His name was Marco Polo.

The messenger who carried Roger's book to

Rome found the Pope on his deathbed. The new Pope was brought from Acre, in the Holy Land, where Prince Edward of England was then in camp. Edward gladly fitted out a fleet for his friend the Pope, and bade him good speed as he sailed to the west. But already three travelers from Acre had taken their way to the east, bearing a letter from the new Pope to Kubla, the great Khan of China.

Two of these were old travelers who had been to China before; the third was a lad of only seventeen, Marco Polo. Some fifty years before this a dreadful Mongol conqueror had swept over Asia. The lands where he had passed were still an empty waste. And so it happened that for a short spell the heart of Asia lay open to the traveler.

The three pilgrims went first by Bagdad to the Persian Gulf; but finding no ship to take them to China, they made up their minds to go by land. So they struck north over the high, cold tableland of the Pamir, called the " Roof of the World ", then down through the desert of Gobi and across the endless steppes of Mongolia.

Marco was a young man of twenty-one when at last they reached the end of their long jour-

ney at the summer palace of the great Khan. Of this palace Marco gives a wonderful account in his book. Reading this account, an English poet dreamed of it afterwards, and made these lines while he slept:—

In Xanadu did Kubla Khan
A stately pleasure-dome decree:
Where Alph, the sacred river, ran
Through caverns measureless to man
Down to a sunless sea.
So twice five miles of fertile ground
With walls and towers were girdled round:
And there were gardens bright with sinuous rills
Where blossom'd many an incense-bearing tree;
And here were forests ancient as the hills,
Enfolding sunny spots of greenery.

The Khan was pleased with Marco Polo, and took him into his service. The young man soon learned the languages of China. As he went about on the Khan's business he kept his eyes open, and told his master afterwards all the strange things he had seen.

In this way he traveled over the length and breadth of China, to Tibet, and even to India. For some time he was ruler of one of the largest cities of China. But at last, after twenty years, the time came for him to depart.

A young princess was going from China to Persia to marry the Khan of that country, and Marco Polo and his companions were chosen to take her there. The party set out with many favors from Kubla Khan, and carried letters to Edward I of England and other monarchs of Europe.

The princess was a girl of seventeen, who could not have stood the long journey overland. So they took the easier way of going by sea. They passed through the Sea of a Thousand Islands, which we call the Malay Archipelago, and along the coast of India and Ceylon. Two years were spent on the voyage to Persia, and when the time came to say good-bye to her kind friends, the princess wept.

A colder greeting awaited the wanderers when, travel-stained and weary, they at last reached Venice. Their friends had long supposed them to be dead, and would not believe that this grey-haired man was Marco, who had left Venice as a boy so long ago. But they began to change their minds when the travelers ripped up their shabby clothes and showed a vast store of jewels sewn up in the seams.

In after years when fighting for Venice Marco Polo was taken by the enemy and cast into prison. There he told the story of his travels to a fellow captive, who wrote it down in a book.

The truth of Marco Polo's book was long held in doubt. But when travelers in our own day explored the heart of Asia, they found it all just as he had said. And at least one early traveler held him in honor. There is an old copy of Marco Polo's Travels, with notes carefully written on the margin, in the hand of Christopher Columbus.

Dante

Marco Polo, for all his travels, was not the greatest traveler of his day. There was another pilgrim named Dante who went upon a stranger journey still. He was brought up in the city of Florence, and took part in its wars, but enemies drove him from the city, and he lived an exile from his dear Florence to the end of his days. Like Marco Polo, he went through " caverns measureless to man " and " gardens bright with sinuous rills ". But Dante's journey was a dream, and his story of it is one of the greatest poems of the world.

He dreamed that he visited the land of the dead, and there met great men of all time. Some were his own friends whom he had known and loved in Florence, others were kings and princes, like Edward I of England, or Saladin and Duke Godfrey, the heroes of the Crusades. To each was given his fitting place, and Dante talked with them as he went on his way.



Statue of Dante at Florence

Once in his dream Dante and his guide came to the edge of a great chasm, where a dragon, floating on the air, took them down upon its back.

> As a small vessel, backing out from land,
> Her station quits; so thence the monster loosed,
> And when he felt himself at large, turged round
> There where his breast had been his forked tail.
> Thus, like an eel, outstretched at length he steered,
> Gathering the air up with his grasping claws.

Great was my dread, when round me on each side
The air I viewed, and other object none
Save the fell beast. He slowly sailing, wheels
His downward motion.



Dante's House, Florence

So Dante went down to the lowest depths. But before the end of his dream he was to soar again to the highest heaven. And here his guide was the Lady Beatrice. He had known and loved this lady from the time he first saw her as a little girl, and when she died he said that he would write a book in memory of her. "I shall yet", he said, "write concerning her what hath not before been written of any woman." And well he kept his promise.



DANTE AND BEATRICE

From the painting by Henry Holiday, in the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool

THE HUNDRED YEARS' WAR

The Beginning of the War

After the death of Robert Bruce, when Edward III was king of England, war again broke out between Scotland and England, and the Scots sought help from France to keep the English out of their country.

It was partly this help given by France to Scotland which led to that war between France and England which lasted for more than one hundred years. Fighting did not go on all that time, but it was a hundred years before England at last gave up the attempt to conquer France.

Other causes of the war were — the attempts made by the French king to take from Edward III a French province which belonged to the English king; and the damage which French sailors did to English ships. The port of Southampton was burned by the French, and much injury was done to English trade.

So Edward declared war against France. He obtained the help of the Flemings, the people of Flanders, a country on the north-east border of France.



Great Seal of Edward III

But in order to get their help Edward had to make a claim to the throne of France. For the Flemings said that they were the vassals of whoever was king of France, and they wanted an excuse for fighting against Philip, their true king.

Edward's mother was a French princess, and Edward himself was the nearest male relative of the late French king; but he had no real right to the throne.

The war began with a sea fight. Edward, learning that a large French fleet lay in the harbor of Sluys, on the coast of Flanders, made up his mind to attack it, though he was warned how dangerous such an undertaking was. When his advisers begged him not to go, he grew angry, and cried: "I shall go; those who are afraid where there is no cause for fear may stay at home!" He got together a fleet of 200 ships and set sail.

In those days there were no cannon, and



Obverse



Reverse

Gold Noble of Edward III, commemorating the Victory at Sluys

the ships did not fight at a distance with powder and shot.

First the archers let fly a volley of arrows; then the ships were driven one against another, and the English men-at-arms leaped on board the ships of the enemy, and fought hand to hand with pike and sword.

At the battle of Sluys the English were completely victorious. They lost only two ships, while nearly all the French ships were destroyed or injured, and thousands upon thousands of French and Norman sailors and soldiers were slain or drowned.

No one dared at first tell the French king of the disaster. At length the court jester called out, "What cowards those English are!" Philip asked why. "Because," said the jester,

"they did not dare to leap into the sea as our brave Frenchmen did!" Then Philip guessed, from the jester's mockery, what had really happened.

The Battle of Crecy, 1346

For several years after the battle of Sluys, the war went on slowly and with no success. Then Edward crossed to France with a large army, determined to punish the men of Normandy and of Calais for their raids on the English coast.

With him he took his eldest son, also named Edward, who was at this time a lad of sixteen years of age. He grew up to be so mighty and terrible a warrior that the French called him the Black Prince.



Armor of Edward the Black Prince suspended over his Tomb in Canterbury Cathedral

The French were very backward to defend their country, and for some months Edward went through

Normandy ravaging and burning. At length he reached Rouen, where he wished to cross the river Seine on his way to Calais.

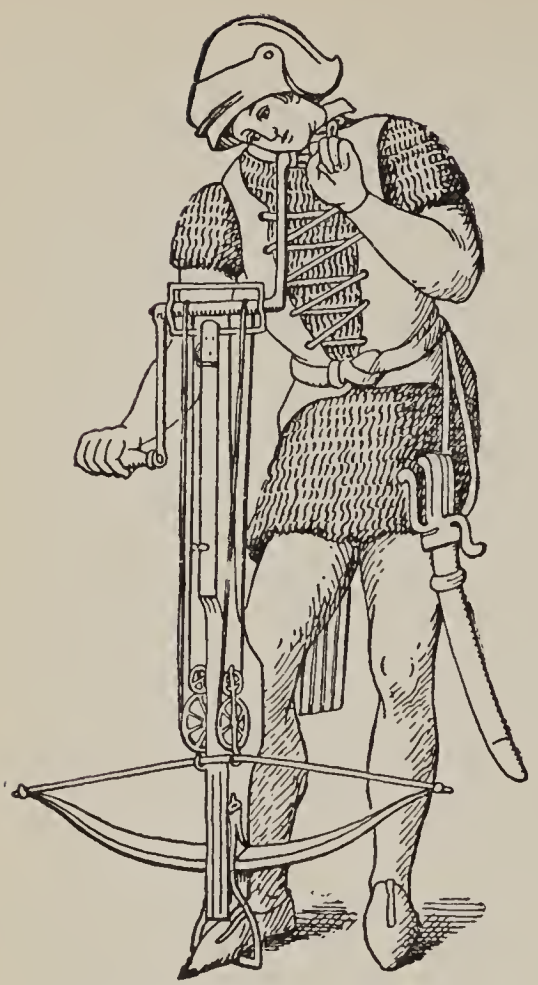
There he found the bridges broken down, so that his position was very dangerous. The French king was at hand with an army twice the size of his own; to retreat was impossible, to advance was full of danger.

At length Edward repaired one of the bridges and crossed, only to find before him another river — the Somme. Over this, too, the bridges were destroyed, all but one, which was in the hands of the enemy.

He learned at last of a spot where the river could be crossed at low tide. Hastily he led his army over, and had only just got across when the French army arrived at the bank the English had left. By this time the tide had risen, and the baffled French could not cross to pursue their enemy.

Edward now determined to risk a battle. He drew up his army on a slope near the village of Crecy, where he waited while the French crossed by the bridge many miles farther up the river. (See map in appendix.)

He arranged his army in three portions, re-



Genoese Archer winding up or bending his Cross-bow

maining himself in the rear with one part as a reserve. One of the other divisions was commanded by the Black Prince, who was aided by Sir John of Chandos, one of the finest soldiers of the time.

Two days passed before the French army arrived. The battle began on the evening of August 26, 1346. The French soldiers, weary and hungry after a long march were impatient and disorderly, for they expected to win an easy victory over the small English army.

The English had had good food and a long rest, and were seated on the ground, rank by rank, awaiting the enemy.

When King Philip saw them his blood boiled, so much did he dislike them. He ordered his crossbowmen to advance, and the English sprang up to meet them.

Just at that moment a terrible thunderstorm broke over the field, and the rain fell in torrents. The strings of the Frenchmen's bows were so drenched that they became almost useless, but the English archers kept their bows in canvas cases, so that they were dry and in good trim.

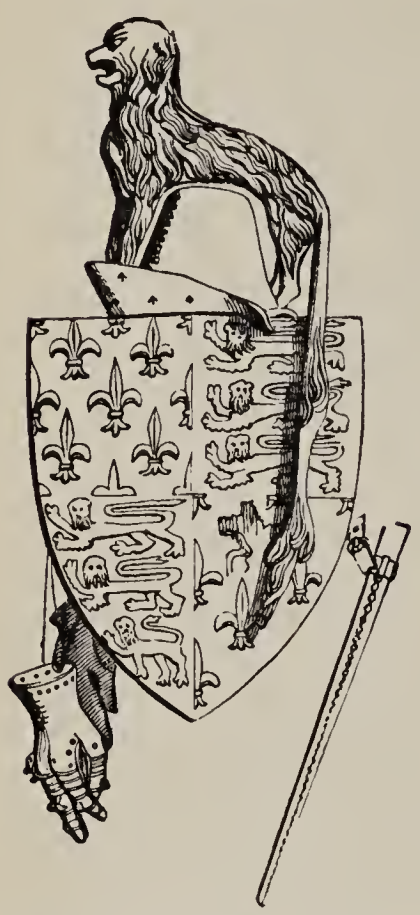
Then the storm ceased as suddenly as it arose, and the sun shone out, right in the faces of the dazzled French. With a shout the French bowmen advanced, but when they were met by a shower of English arrows as thick as snow, they threw down their bows and took to their heels.

In vain the men-at-arms tried to drive them back to the fight. They could not face again those terrible arrows, which still flew thick and fast. But the French knights behind kept pressing on, trusting to their greater numbers to break through the ranks of English archers and footmen.

Then it was that a knight went in haste to King Edward, who was watching the fight from a windmill on the hill, and begged him to come to the aid of his gallant son.

"Is my son dead?" asked the king. "No,

sire," replied the knight. "Is he unhorsed, or so desperately wounded that he cannot support himself?" "No, Sire," replied the knight, "but he is in so hot a strife that he has great need of your help." Then said the king: "Let the boy win his spurs, for I am resolved that all the glory of this day shall be his."



Part of Military Accoutrement of Edward the Black Prince

The boy won his spurs indeed. So well did he and his men fight that the French fled, after many of their bravest knights were slain. The battle ended in a complete victory for the English, who lost few men, while the French loss was enormous.

The battle of Crecy is very important in one respect. It showed that the bravest and boldest knights of France were no match against the sturdy English yeomen, with their bows and arrows.

The men who had left their ploughs and

their spades at Edward's call put to rout the finest nobility of France. The people won the day, and not the nobles.

The Citizens of Calais

After the battle of Crecy, Edward hastened northwards and began the siege of Calais. In those days towns were strongly defended with thick walls, above which rose castles and turrets at various points. Cannon were not yet in use, and it was almost useless to try to take a town by assault.

The plan of a siege was to surround the town, and keep the people shut up without any chance of getting food.

This was done at Calais. For a whole year the English remained before the walls, living in huts which their carpenters had built, and which made a little town of themselves.

The sufferings of the people of Calais were terrible. They made their food last as long as possible, and when it was gone they began to eat their horses, dogs, and cats, and even began to speak of eating one another.

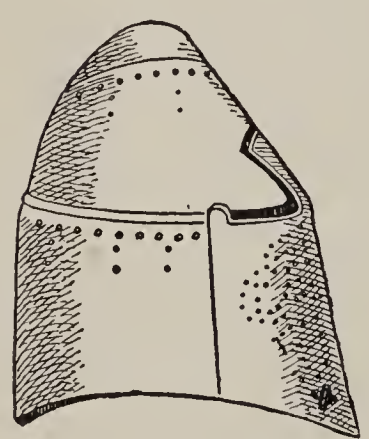
They hoped to hold out till an army came to

relieve them, but though a French army came quite near, the soldiers so feared the English that they went away again without fighting.

At last the governor of the town offered to surrender, if Edward would allow the people to depart unharmed. A brave English knight, Sir Walter Manny, asked Edward to agree to this, but the king refused.

However, he consented to spare the citizens if they gave up to him six of the chief men among them. These were to come to him bareheaded and barefooted, with ropes about their necks, bringing the keys of the city. "On them", said the king in his anger, "I will work my will!"

The poor, starving people were sad when they heard these hard terms. They met in the marketplace at the ringing of a bell. There the richest man in town stepped forward and spoke. "My friends," he said, "it would be a pity for all our people to die of famine. Whoever dies for his people will find grace and pardon in the sight of God. I will be the first, and willingly will I yield myself in



Helmet of Time of Battle of Crécy

nothing but my shirt, with my head bare and a halter round my neck, to the mercy of the King of England."

Women threw themselves at his feet with tears, blessing him. Five other noble-minded men joined themselves with him, and all six went out of the city, and came to meet Edward.



Effigy of Edward the Black Prince. From his tomb in Canterbury Cathedral.

The English king sat in state to receive them, his queen by his side, and many nobles around him. The six men fell humbly at his feet, and, offering him the keys, begged him to have mercy upon them and spare their lives.

Barons and knights wept as they beheld the pitiful sight. Sir Walter Manny pleaded for the captives. "Let not the world have cause to speak ill of your cruelty," he said to the king.

But Edward looked at them darkly with angry eyes. He could not forget what injuries

the men of Calais had done to English seamen. Then Queen Philippa fell on her knees before the king, and said with tears: "My gentle Sir, since I crossed the seas with great danger to see you, not one favor have I asked of you; now I humbly beg that for love of Christ and of me you will have mercy on these men."

For a time Edward looked at her in silence. Then, raising her tenderly, he said: "My lady, I could wish that you had not been here, but I cannot refuse you; I give them to you to do with as you please." Then the queen took the men of Calais to her tent, where she had them fed and clothed, and sent them away with a present of money.

Poictiers and Agincourt

(1356 and 1415)

The war lingered on for several years. Ten years after the battle of Crecy, the Black Prince won a splendid victory at Poictiers, where he captured the King of France, who was carried a prisoner to London.

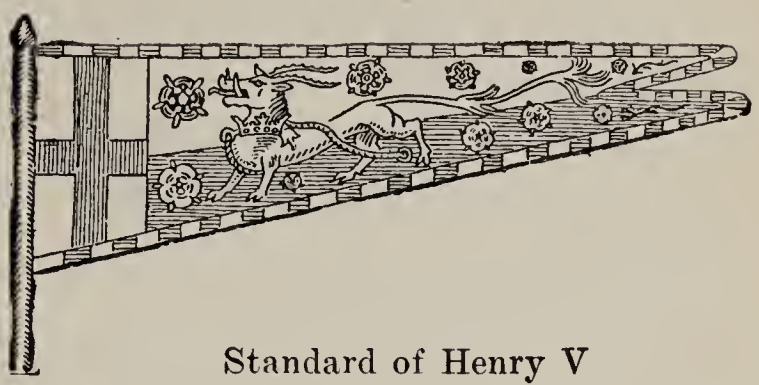
After the battle of Poictiers, the English



MORNING OF THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT

From the painting by Sir John Gilbert, R.A., in the Guildhall, London

won no great successes in France for many years. The Black Prince wore himself out with constant warfare, and died before his father.



Standard of Henry V

He proved himself to be a great, though a merciless, soldier, and Englishmen were proud of him; but they liked him still better in his last years when, though ill and weak, he did his best to improve the government of the country.

About sixty years after the battle of Poictiers, another wonderful victory was won by the English in France. The English king, Henry V, was a young man twenty-eight years old. He was warlike in character, and longed to conquer France. So he raised again the claim to the French crown which Edward III had made.

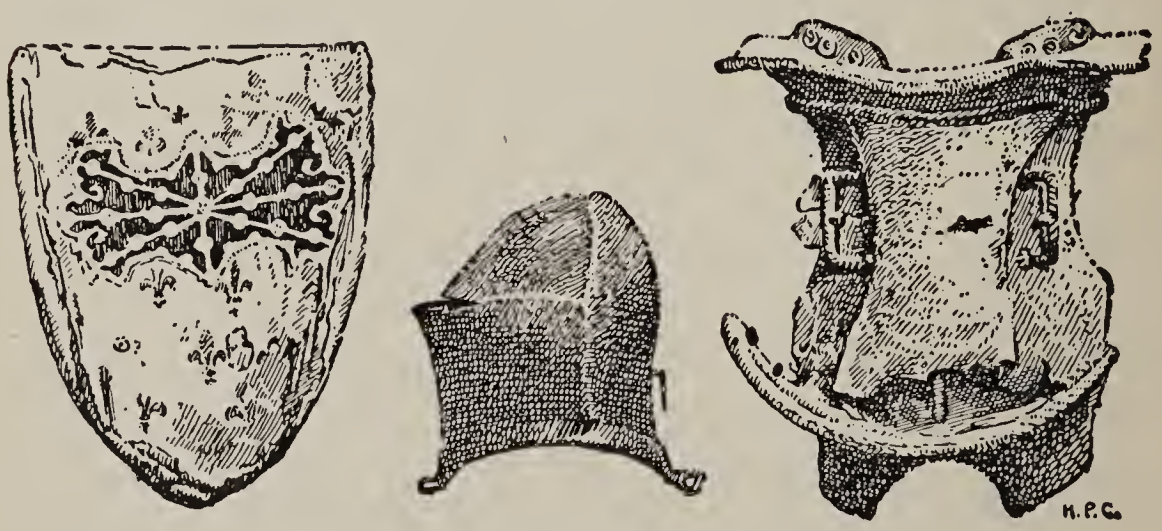
In his younger days, when Prince of Wales, Henry is said to have been a merry madcap, and to have behaved in ways unworthy of a prince. Stories are told of his robbing travel-

ers and playing other pranks with a crew of idle rogues.

But one of these stories is somewhat to his credit. A comrade of his was brought one day before the chief justice, charged with an offense against the law.

The prince, hearing of this, came to the court in a rage, and ordered the prisoner to be released. The judge refused to release him, whereupon the prince came angrily up to the judge's seat, and the onlookers in terror expected to see him kill the judge.

But the judge, looking calmly at the hot-headed youth, rebuked him for setting a bad example to his father's subjects, and ordered him to prison. The prince's attendants would have fought the officers of the law; but the prince, seeing how wrong he had been, for-



Shield, Helmet, and Saddle of Henry V in Westminster Abbey

bade them to lift a hand for him, and went humbly to his punishment. His father was pleased when he heard the story. "I am glad," he said, "to find I have so just a judge and so obedient a son."

Henry proved to be a splendid soldier. At Agincourt, a village a few miles north of Crecy, he defeated, with ten thousand men, a French army five times as large.

The English were hungry and tired, but eager for the fight. The French hesitated to make an attack, whereupon Henry ordered his archers to advance. They obeyed with a shout, and, planting in the ground before them a row of thick stakes sharpened at both ends, they shot their arrows into the ranks of the French horsemen.

The French charged, but their horses' legs stuck fast in the mud, the ground being a ploughed field soaked with rain. Those who got free could not pass the close hedge of stakes, and many hundreds were slain.

Charge after charge failed, and the victory remained with Henry. Many of the greatest nobles of France were among the slain; eleven thousand French lay dead on the field, but on the English side only a few men fell.

After some further victories it was arranged that Henry should become King of France on the death of the king then reigning, but a few years later Henry himself died, without having been able to call France his own kingdom, as he had wished to do.

Joan of Arc

At Henry's death, the chief part in the French war was taken by his brother, the Duke of Bedford. Bedford was a most skillful warrior, and a wise statesman, who, within fifteen years of the battle of Agincourt, had made himself master of almost the whole of the north of France. (See map in appendix.)

One great town alone, the town of Orleans, remained to the French, and if that were captured, Bedford believed that he would be able once for all to conquer the kingdom of France.



Medal of Joan of Arc. From a French work of 1634

So he laid siége to Orleans, and kept the town shut up for many months. The French made a stout defense against his attacks, but could not drive him away.

All the attempts of the French to relieve Orleans having failed, it seemed as though the town must give in. At this serious moment a savior appeared for Orleans in the strangest of ways. It was a young girl of seventeen, whose memory is to this day loved by the French as that of a saint and martyr.

Her name was Joan of Arc, and she is sometimes called the Maid of Orleans. Her father was only a poor peasant, and the little girl grew up in a quiet country village, far away from the scenes of war. She was very ignorant; she could neither read nor write; all her skill lay in sewing and spinning; but now and then she went to the field to tend her father's sheep. She was gentle and good. Her mother had taught her to pray; she loved the sound of the evening bell calling her to prayer; she loved to sit and dream, and think over the stories of angels which she had been told.

As she grew older, stories of the horrors and miseries caused by war came to her village, and filled Joan's simple mind with sorrow. By and by her own village began to suffer, and Joan's heart became more and more sad. She felt great pity for her country.

Suddenly she began to hear, as she thought,

voices in the air calling her, as the Voice called the boy Samuel of old. She paid little heed to them at first, but one day a voice said: "Joan, you are called to live another life, and to do marvelous things; for it is you whom God has chosen to bring happiness to France, and to render aid to King Charles."

Distrusting the voice no longer, Joan went to a great captain, to whom she told her story. He laughed at her, called her a foolish girl, and bade her go home to her parents.

Joan sadly returned, but she still heard the voices. By and by her village was burned and its church destroyed. Joan would wait no longer; again she went to the captain, who this time paid more attention to what she said, and at last agreed to send her to Charles.

Armed like a soldier and riding on a black horse, the young girl set out. She was tall and strongly built, with a pleasant face, beautiful black hair, and a sweet voice.

When she came before Charles, she begged him to give her an army, and allow her to go to Orleans. At first Charles thought her requests mere folly, fit only to be laughed at. But by and by his doubts were overcome by the maid's earnestness and purity of heart,

and he gave her a suit of white armor and bade her go.



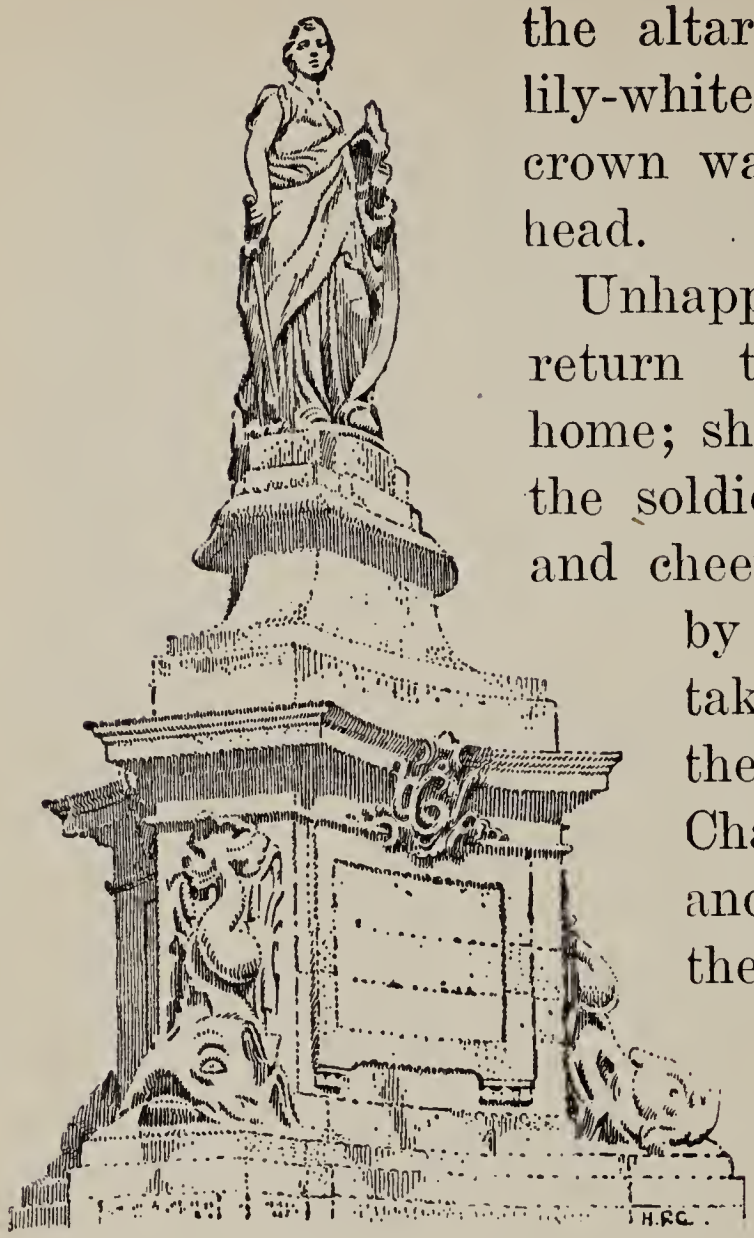
Cannon of Fifteenth Century

Clad in her armor, mounted on a white horse, and bearing a white banner embroidered with lilies, Joan set out with an army for Orleans. The rough soldiers adored her, and for her sake they gave up some of their bad habits and lived more decent lives.

The English had heard of her, and were so overcome with terror when she appeared, that they allowed her to pass into Orleans with food for the starving people. They could not believe that any woman but a witch would dare to engage in such dangerous work, and they were not there to fight against witches.

In a few days the French had captured several of the English forts. The presence of the Maid gave them courage, while their bold enemies seemed to become as weak as women.

A few days more and Orleans was saved. The English had so lost heart, that they withdrew from the place. Then Joan went to Rheims, where the kings of France were crowned, and stood by the side of Charles at



Statue of Joan of Arc, Rouen

the altar, unfolding her lily-white banner as the crown was placed on his head.

Unhappily, Joan did not return to her country home; she remained with the soldiers, still leading and cheering them, until by and by she was taken prisoner by the troops of one of Charles' enemies, and handed over to the English.

Those were cruel times, when terrible deeds were sometimes done in the name of religion. The English had Joan brought to trial, and accused of being a witch, and of acting as no Christian woman would act.

Such charges were monstrous and cruel, but her enemies were resolved to put out of the world the brave and good girl who had saved France. She was condemned, and on May 30,



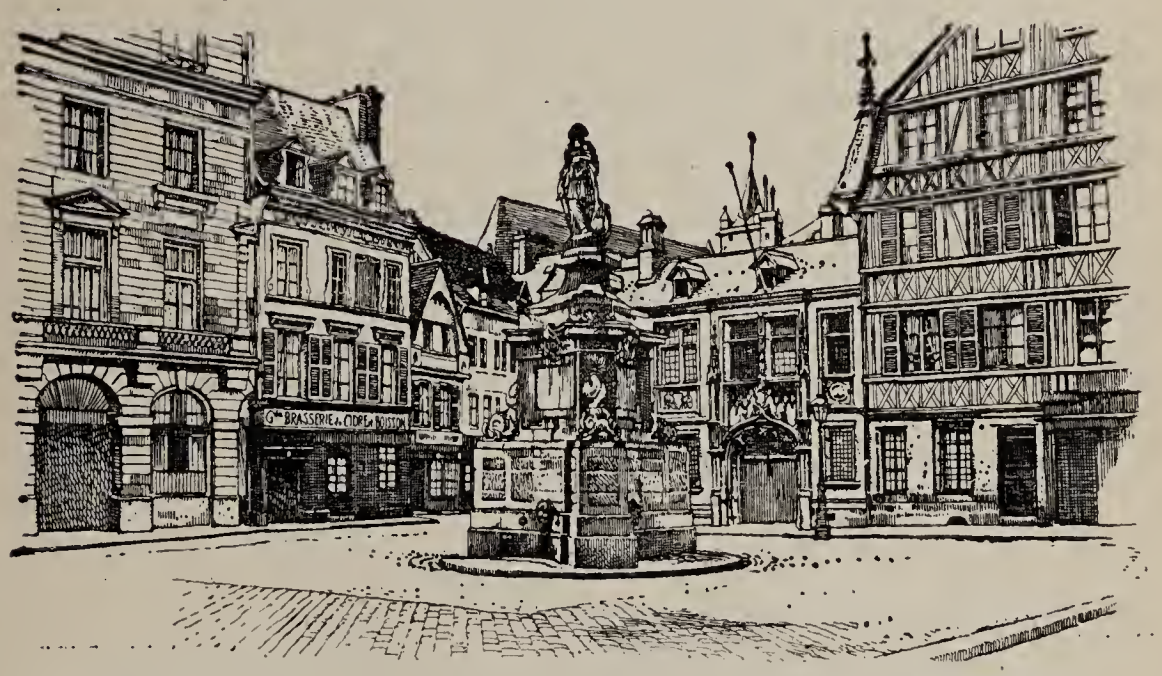
THE RELIEF OF ORLEANS BY JOAN OF ARC

From the mural painting by Lenepveu, in the Pantheon, Paris

1431, in the marketplace of Rouen, Joan was burned to death.

Some even of her cruel English enemies shed tears as they watched her sufferings; and as she bent forward and murmured the name of Jesus ere she died, an Englishman standing by hung his head in shame. "We are lost!" he said, "we have burned a saint!"

The English cause was indeed lost. The Duke of Bedford soon died, and there was no such able man to replace him. Twenty years after the death of Joan, the English had lost all that they had won in France except Calais; that remained an English town for two hundred years.



Place de la Pucelle, Rouen. The scene of the martyrdom of Joan of Arc

The State of France

For a hundred years English kings had been trying to bind France to their throne. Fleet after fleet had poured English armies into France, to come back sadly thinned or not at all. The two realms could not thus be joined, for still the Channel rolled between. Divided they had been from the beginning, and divided they must remain.

To keep up this war overseas England had to pay dearly in men and money; but the cost to France was beyond count. The taxes were too heavy to be borne. Rich lands were laid waste and towns were burned by bands of paid soldiers, French or English.

These bands were out to make profit, and in time of truce they could not be got rid of. They made their headquarters in some castle or abbey that they had captured, and there they lived in wild revel. To wait upon them in their feasts they stole children from the country round about.

But in money matters these lawless bands ran their business well. Some poor clerk was made to keep their accounts right, and a fixed charge was made on travelers or merchants

for leave to pass from town to town. Prisoners might buy their freedom by paying a heavy price, but the poor peasants who had no money were done to death to amuse their captors.

The nobles were often on the side of the brigands, and did nothing to help the peasants. At last, starving and often homeless, the peasants of Northern France rose in revolt. It was now the turn of the nobles to tremble, as castle after castle was laid low and the inmates killed. Such a thing as a rising of peasants had never before been known; the nobles called it " the horror ".[1]

The Dauphin sent his wife, his sister, and other ladies of the Court to seek safety on an island in the River Marne. Here they were attacked by an army of angry peasants. Vengeance was about to fall on these hapless dames, when help came from a French count who chanced to pass that way.

The peasants were no match for his trained soldiers, and those who were not killed were soon put to flight. The revolt was crushed without mercy, and the lot of the French peasants was no better.

[1] It is now called the Jacquerie, from "Jack Goodfellow," nickname given to the French peasants.

But besides all this misery, France was to know the shame of defeat. One French king died a prisoner in England; another went mad; while Frenchmen took sides against one another instead of against their common foe.

Then came Joan of Arc, and you know what followed — Frenchmen plucked up heart, and forgot their private quarrels. As step by step the English were driven out, France at last had a chance to put her house in order.

The power of the nobles was reduced for the wars had shown the superiority of bowmen and foot soldiers over the mail-clad knights. The king's power was increased as the territories from which the English had been driven were added to the royal domain.

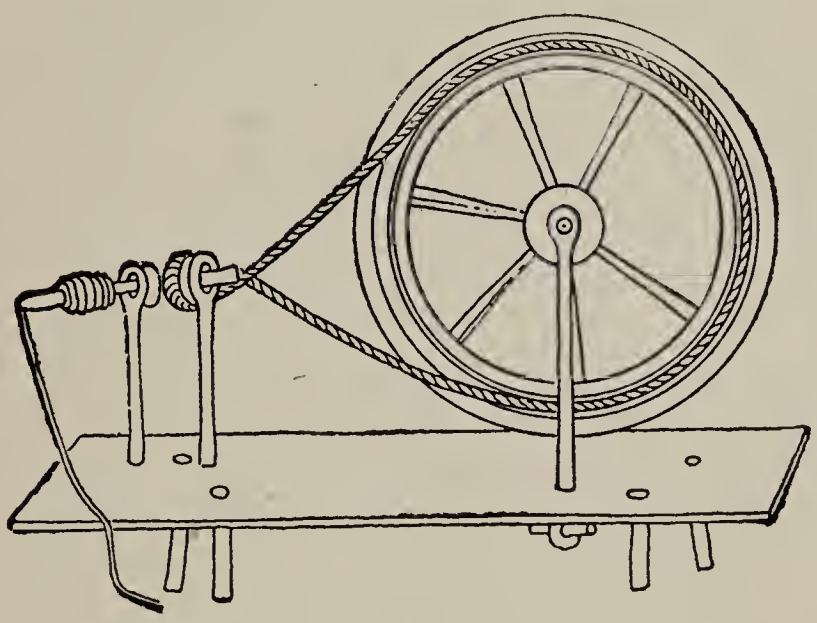
The free companies of soldiers, which had been the terror of the land, gave place to a royal standing army. France was on the way to become a strong kingdom.

Bitter had the lesson been, but France had learned it. She went into the war a loosely joined people, and came out one nation.

THE BLACK DEATH AND THE STATE OF ENGLAND.

The Black Death, 1349

During the early part of the Hundred Years' War, England was fairly prosperous. Edward III had encouraged trade; for his wars cost much money, and as the money had to be



Spinning Wheel, 1340

provided in part by taxes on the people, it could not be got unless trade was good.

He brought Flemish weavers to England, and tried to improve the English manufacture of wool. The trading classes during his reign grew much in wealth and importance.

The plunder gained in the war also helped

to make England rich. The nobles, indeed, became wasteful, and spent large sums on their pleasures and their dress.

In the midst of all this, a dreadful plague came upon the country. It was a strange disease, which came from the east of Europe, and spread with awful speed. No one could check



Ploughing, 1340. From an ancient Psalter

it. It was helped by the dirty habits of the people and the filthy state of their houses and towns; for in those days people did not know, as we now know, how important it is to be clean if we wish to be healthy.

This disease, known as the Black Death, carried off thousands upon thousands of the people, for the most part from among the poor. Perhaps as many as half the people of England perished. The living were scarcely able to bury the dead. Villages were left desolate,

and at sea ships drifted about with all their crews dead. But though it was so terrible at the time, it brought great good to English workmen in after years.

So many poor laborers having died, it was not easy to find men to till the fields. Those who were left demanded higher wages than some of the landlords could afford to pay, so that some landlords left their crops to perish rather than pay men to reap them.

Two years after the plague, Parliament passed a famous law on behalf of the landlords, by which an attempt was made to fix wages at a low rate, and in other ways to keep the laborers down.

At that time the country laborers were little better than slaves on the land of their lords. They were not allowed to go from place to place in search of higher wages; they had to put up with what they could get, and serve the masters on whose land they were born. If they tried to escape, and were captured, they were branded with a red-hot iron.

When wages rose after the Black Death, the laborers who were not contented wished more than ever for freedom to go about in search of masters who would pay them better. But

the masters would not allow them to do so, and began to treat them more harshly than ever.

Things got worse and worse, until in the reign of Richard II, grandson of Edward III, a rebellion broke out.

Wat Tyler's Rebellion, 1381

The laborers, as we have seen, had many reasons for their discontent. Some of the wilder spirits among them now began to stir up their fury by asking why they were laborers at all.

A poor priest of Kent, named John Ball, went about the country telling the people that no man ought to be richer than any other man, and that all men were born equal.

A rough rhyme was made up—

> "When Adam delved and Eve span,
> Who was then the gentleman?"

This was sung all over the country, and the rougher spirits among the poor began to grow eager to get hold of the property of the rich and divide it among themselves. They had been so mistreated that they were ready to break out in open violence at any moment.

Just at this dangerous time a new tax was



CANTERBURY CA THEDRAL (page 221)

The object of the Canterbury Pilgrimages was the Shrine and Relics of Becket contained in the Cathedral

put on the people. Every person over fifteen years of age was ordered to pay a certain sum towards the expenses of the French war.

The poor people raised loud and bitter complaints, but they did not at first refuse to pay, or rise in rebellion.

One day, one of the men sent to enquire whether the tax had been paid, behaved with shameful rudeness in the house of a workman in Kent. The man was so enraged that he struck the tax-collector dead.

His neighbors took his part, and very soon a great mob of rough men from Essex and Kent were on the march to London. On the way they broke into the houses of the gentry, and robbed and slew without mercy.

The king and his council were too much taken by surprise to put down the rising at once. They shut the gates of London, then a walled city, and asked what the rebels wanted. The rebels made answer that, first of all, they desired that no man should be held as a serf upon the land of his lord.

King Richard II, then only a boy of fourteen, said that he would go out to the rebels and try to quiet them. He met them at Smithfield, and began to talk to them; but their leader, a

man named Wat Tyler, behaved so roughly that the Lord Mayor, thinking that the king would be hurt, struck Tyler down with a dagger, and he was killed as he lay on the ground.

The men of Kent, seeing their leader dead, bent their bows and shouted that they would have revenge. But the young king galloped boldly up to them, promised to grant them what they asked for, and cried, "I myself will be your leader!"

Trusting in his promise, the people went away to their homes. The king's council afterwards would not allow the promise to be kept, and the rebels were punished with much cruelty.

But from that time the laborers had more freedom, for the lords saw that it was impossible to keep down the poor people as they had done before. It was not very long before every serf had become a free man.

The State of England

The life of Englishmen in the fourteenth century was very different from the life of the people to-day. There were, roughly, five classes in the country — the clergy, the nobles,



Silver Groat of Richard II

the traders, the yeomen, and villeins.

The traders grew in importance during this period. The eastern counties were the seat of a great trade in wool and fish. Fairs were held in various parts of the country at which merchants of all nations sold their wares.

The yeomen were tenant farmers who, in time of war, served as bowmen and men-at-arms.

The villeins, who, as we have seen, could not leave the lands on which they were born, but had to work there for their masters, lived in miserable huts, which had no windows or chimneys. Their food was good on the whole, though they suffered for want of vegetables, the only one commonly eaten being cabbage. Meat, bread, butter, and cheese were cheap.

The laborers wore rough clothes of wool or leather; the traders wore cloth of good material, but plain. The nobles decked themselves out in splendid clothing. Their dress consisted of a long-sleeved vest, with a large and costly mantle, and feathered hat. Their shoes were very long, and bent upwards at the toes, some-

times being fastened to the knees with chains of gold and silver.

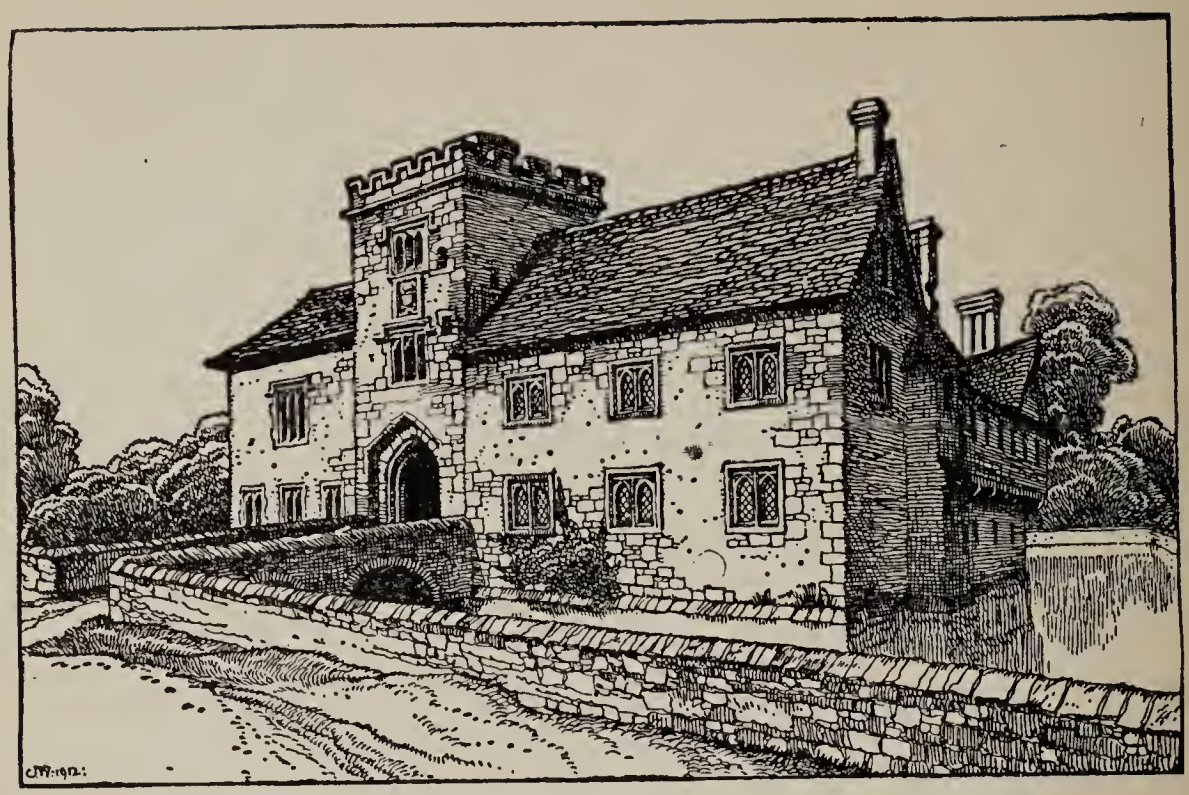
Though the houses of the poor were so bad, men were skillful in building grand churches and fine houses for the wealthy. Splendid castles and manor houses were built. A manor house consisted of a large hall, where the family and servants had their meals, where the ladies worked at their sewing and spinning, and where the servants slept at night, either on benches or on rushes placed on the floor.

At one end of the hall were sleeping-rooms for the family; at the other end were stables. Some houses had large kitchens, and an upper chamber, or " solar ", built over the hall.

There was as a rule no chimney; the smoke found its way out through holes and gratings in the roof. Glass windows were seen nowhere



Costumes of Time of Richard II



The Moat House, Ightham, Kent. An example of a fortified manor house of feudal times

but in palaces and churches. There was scarcely any furniture; a table and a few seats, with a dresser for holding the gold and silver plate, were almost the only things in use.

People rose in the morning with the sun. They had dinner as early as nine o'clock, and were called to it by the blast of a horn.

There were no forks or plates. People used their fingers, and cut their meat or fish on hunks of bread. After dinner water was brought for washing, and minstrels played or sang while the company drank their wine or beer. Tea and coffee were as yet unknown.



CHAUCER AT THE COURT OF EDWARD III, READING HIS CANTERBURY TALES

From the painting by Ford Madox Brown, in the Tate Gallery, London

Supper was eaten at five o'clock, and everybody went to bed at sunset, for candles were dear. Books were few, and were written by hand. Few people could read, but they used to listen to the stories told or sung by wandering storytellers, who went about the country calling at the houses of the rich, where they were sure of a welcome, and of food and a lodging in return for their stories.

Life in England was hard for the poor, as it is still in our days, but they had a good deal of pleasure, too. Every saint's day was a holiday, and on these days, as well as on Sundays, people danced and made merry on their village green.

In the towns the tradesmen joined together in guilds, each trade having one of its own. Every man who followed a trade had to belong to the trade guild, otherwise he perhaps would not have been allowed to work, or would have found it hard to make a living. In the city of London these guilds remain to this day, though they have no longer the power they once had.

We have seen that the Norman Conquest brought the French language into England. For many years the upper classes in England

spoke French and understood no English, while the lower class kept their English and understood no French.

But by the time of Edward III, English had overcome French, though many French words had come into the language. From this time onwards English was the language used in the courts of law and in the schools, and great books began to be written in English.

Chaucer and other Writers

We have been hearing something of the state of England in the latter part of the fourteenth century. But there is a better way of learning about that old-time England. We may meet even now with those people of five hundred years ago, in their walk and talk, their work and play, as they live in the books that have come down to us from those times.

For that was the time of Geoffrey Chaucer, the first great English poet. He spent most of his life in London, in service about the Court, and was for a while a member of Parliament. But as a young man he fought in the French wars, and in later life he went on the king's business as far as Italy.

His greatest work was the Canterbury Tales.

On a spring morning, he tells us, a gay company was gathered at the Tabard Inn, near London. It was holiday time, and they were all going to Canterbury to the shrine of Thomas a Becket. It was a four-days' ride, so they passed the time by telling stories, and agreed to give a supper, when they got back, to the one who told the best tale.

But first Chaucer tells us all about them, till we almost feel as if we had supped with them at the Tabard Inn. We see the "very perfect gentle knight" with his curly-headed squire and his sturdy yeoman, bow in hand; the good parson and the hunt-loving monk; the begging friar and the poor clerk of Oxenford.



Chaucer's Inn, Canterbury (from the yard)

Then there is the pretty and lively prioress and the wife of Bath; the merchant, the sailor, the carpenter, the honest ploughman, and many others. And each one tells his tale.

Chaucer's work is gay and full of laughter. The sad side of life is painted in a poem which bears the name of "Piers Ploughman". It was written by a poor man for those who, like himself, were poor and down-trodden. He points the way of duty and honest labor, and cries out against the wicked, be they high or low.

Another voice in England was raised in the same cause. This time it was no humble man, but John Wyclif, the ablest man in Oxford. He spoke against the wicked men that had found their way into the Church. "God gave his sheep to be fed", he wrote, "not to be shaven and shorn".

Wyclif also found fault with the teaching of the Church. He wrote tracts for the people, speaking his mind freely, not in Latin, as was then the rule, but in plain homely English. He also gave them the Bible in their own tongue so that all might read, and sent out his "simple priests" to preach to the people in the open air.

Those who followed Wyclif's teaching were called Lollards. They grew in number after his death, till it was said that if you saw five men talking together, three of them were sure to be Lollards. But laws were made against them, and some were burned at the stake. And so at last the number of Lollards in England dwindled away.

Wyclif's teaching spread beyond England. John Huss, professor in a great university in Bohemia, took it up eagerly. But he was brought before a Church council and condemned to be burned, and his followers were put to the sword.

Old Rome Made New

For a great part of the fourteenth century (till 1377) the popes had been "in captivity" at Avignon. Here they had to do the bidding of the French kings, and men like Dante, who loved the Church, longed to see the popes back at Rome.

Rome herself, without a strong ruler, became in these days little better than a den of thieves. Lawless nobles robbed and fought to their hearts' content; the weak were at the mercy of the strong.

A deliverer came as in a fairy tale. Rienzi was his name, and he was the son of a washerwoman. By his rousing words he stirred up the people to remember the old fame of Rome, till they rebelled against the bad rule of the nobles and made Rienzi their ruler, under the old Roman title of Tribune.

Rienzi ruled well. He drove out the lawless nobles, punished the wicked, gave justice to all, and kept order with a firm hand. Merchant ships came back to the Tiber, and the markets began to buzz again with trade. It seemed as

if Rome had awakened from a dream. But alas for Rienzi! Puffed up with pride at his success, he fell from power. He fled for his life, and his work perished.



Statue of Rienzi at Rome

The sad end of Rome's new freedom came as a grief to one great Italian. This was the poet Petrarch, in some ways the greatest man of his day. From his home in the hills near Avignon the senate had called him to Rome to receive the poet's crown of laurel leaves, which none had worn for a thousand years. A man of humble birth, so great was the fame of his learning that he was courted by kings and popes and by the emperor himself.

Petrarch was a man of many friends. But he loved best the dead authors of long ago.

He wrote letters to them as if they were his friends; and he wrote also a letter to those who should live long after him, in which he tells the story of his life. His great desire was to win back the lost learning of the old Latin world, and for its sake he spent his days seeking out old manuscripts and copying them with loving care.

Speaking of his books, he said: "I have friends whose society is my delight; they are persons of all countries and of all ages; famous in war, in council, and in letters; easy to live with, always at my command. They come at my call, and return when I desire them: they are never out of humor, and they answer all my questions with readiness. . . . As a reward for such great services, they require only a corner of my little house, where they may be safely sheltered."

Petrarch's learned writings are in Latin. But his most beautiful work is in the Italian sonnets which he wrote in praise of his lady, Laura. She died of that plague which swept over Europe, and which in England was called the Black Death.

In his old age Petrarch was present at a banquet in Milan, where Chaucer is said to

have been a guest. They may also have met at the old university town of Padua. We know, at least, that one of the Canterbury Tales is taken from Petrarch, and that Chaucer learned some of his skill from the Sonnets to Laura.

The Queen of the Adriatic

There was much to delight Chaucer in the rich and splendid cities of Italy — Genoa, Florence, Milan. He had doubtless met their merchants in England, for the business that took him to Italy was to arrange with the city of Genoa about choosing an English port for its trade.

Southampton was already the port of call for the merchant fleets of Venice, which was then at the height of its power. Here is what Petrarch says of Venice:—

"From my windows I see vessels as large as my house with masts taller than its towers. They sail to all parts of the world, and brave a thousand dangers. They carry wine to England; honey to the Scythians; saffron, oil, linen to Assyria, Armenia, Persia, and Arabia; wood to Egypt and Greece; they return laden with good to be dealt out all over Europe. Where



On the Grand Canal, Venice

In the distance is the fine church of Santa Maria della Salute, built in 1632 as a memorial of deliverance from the plague

the sea ends, their sailors quit the ships and travel on to trade with India and China; they cross the Caucasus and the Ganges, and reach the Eastern Ocean."

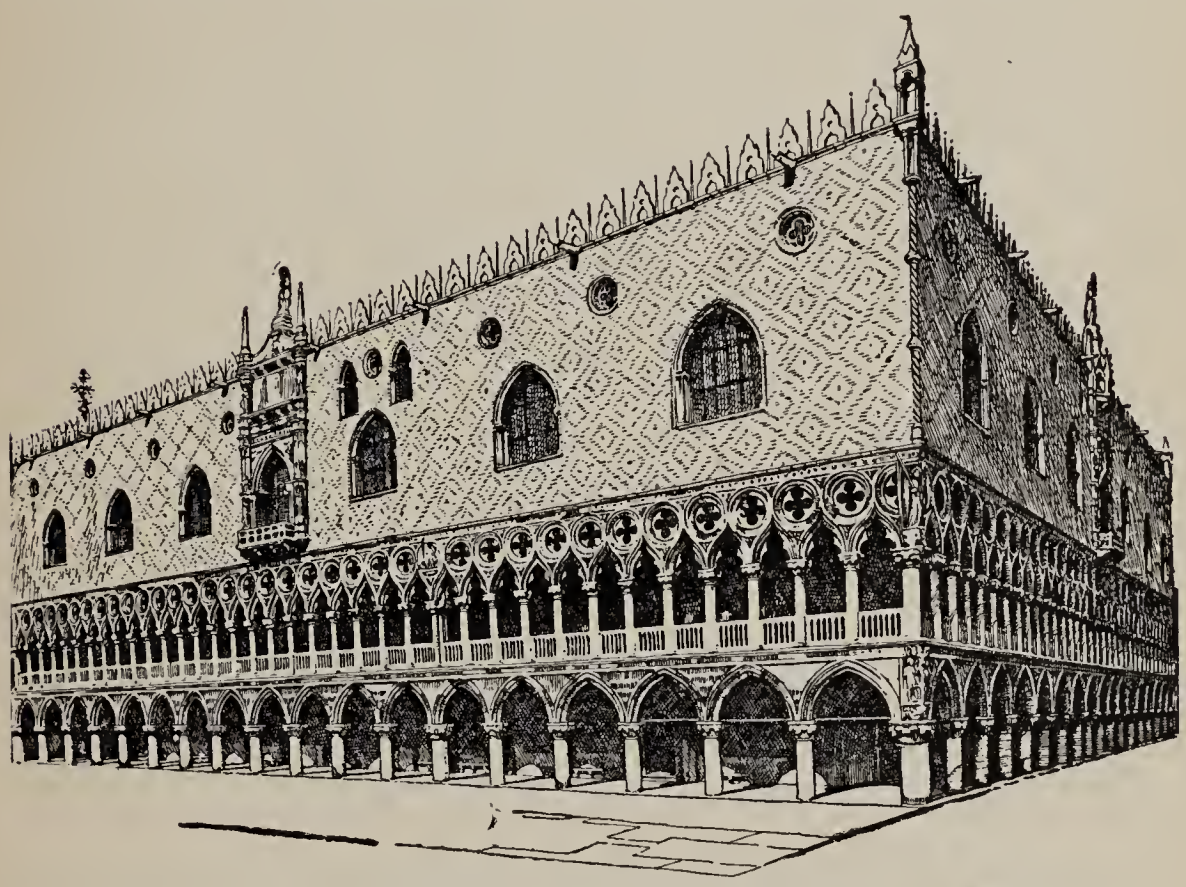
Venice has a long and wonderful history. Round the north edge of the Adriatic Sea the sand brought down by the rivers has gathered into mudbanks. To this dreary place of refuge

[1] Notice how often in history marsh lands have given shelter to freedom. One remembers Alfred at Athelney, Hereward in the Fens, and the Dutch in the Low Countries.

the people of the plain fled[1] in the year 452, when Attila with his horde of Huns swept over the land.

They could not have chosen a better spot. It was the gateway to the plain of North Italy, where ships from the East landed their wares to be carried to the cities of Italy, and over the passes of the Alps to Germany and the Rhine.

A free city grew up on the islands, ruled by her own doge or duke. Along her canals rose the marble palaces of her merchants. She was queen of the Adriatic, and every year with great pomp the doge cast a golden ring into



The Doges' Palace, Venice.

the water, in token of her wedding with the sea.

This was more than the ancient boast of Rome. You will remember that when the Crusaders overthrew Constantinople, the New Rome, they were led by the doge of Venice. Most of the spoils of that defeat fell to the "Queen of the Adriatic".

One of the sights of Venice is the great church of St. Mark, rich in color as a seashell. Great was the joy when St. Mark's bell gave notice that a galley was in sight. For everyone had a share in the city's trade.

A great map was painted on the building where the merchants met to plan out the route for their next fleet of ships. With men like Marco Polo for her citizens, Venice did not fear to push her trade to the ends of the earth. She bartered the wool and cloth of England for the silks and spices of the Farthest East.



THE TRAINED BANDS MARCHING TO THE SUPPORT OF EDWARD IV (BATTLE OF BARNET, 1471)

From the painting by J. H. Amschewitz, in the Royal Exchange, London

THE WARS OF THE ROSES

The Cause of the War

At Edward III's death the crown passed to his grandson, Richard II. Richard proved a weak, unwise, and unworthy king, and after a reign of twenty-two years, his cousin Henry Bolingbroke took the crown from him, and became King Henry IV.

It was during the reign of Bolingbroke's grandson, Henry VI, that the Wars of the Roses broke out.



Half Groat of Henry VI

The sixth Henry was a gentle, weak-minded man, who was quite unfit to rule, and who never had any real power. He was completely in the hands of favorite lords, who were really the rulers of the country.

Henry VI was king when Joan of Arc drove the English from Orleans, and when England began to lose her hold on France. The loss of the lands in France, won in so long and fierce a contest, caused great anger among the English people, and the misrule of the



Statue of Richard, Duke of York (formerly on Welsh Bridge, Shrewsbury)

king's favorite added to their wrath and discontent.

At length the men of Kent rose in rebellion under a soldier named Jack Cade, demanding that the kingdom should be governed by the Duke of York. The duke was an able soldier and a clever man, and he bore a good character. He was also heir to the throne, for as yet Henry had no son.

Cade's rebellion was put down, but Henry was forced to give the Duke of York a greater share in governing the country than he had before. When Henry soon afterwards went suddenly out of his mind, York was named, by Parliament, protector of the kingdom.

The king recovered his senses as suddenly as he had lost them, and York had to give up his position at the head of the kingdom. Henry at once brought back to power a former favor-

ite, the Duke of Somerset; and York, knowing that Somerset was his enemy, and would put him to death if he could, took up arms.

A battle was fought at St. Albans, in which Somerset was killed. This brought York again into power, and the king tried to make peace between the followers of York and those of Somerset.

But war broke out again, and now York made a claim to the throne. If Henry had died childless, York would have become king; but the birth of a prince, who was named Edward, had destroyed York's chance of becoming king in peace.

Parliament would not allow his claim, but they arranged that at Henry's death the crown should pass to York and not to Prince Edward. This decision led to the great struggle between the Houses of Lancaster and York, known as the Wars of the Roses.

It is said that one day the leaders of the two parties in the struggle were walking in a garden. As they spoke hard words to one another, one of them plucked a white rose, and the other a red one, and these roses became the badges of their parties. The red rose

was the badge of Lancaster, Henry's party, and the white rose that of York.

The Earl of Warwick

King Henry's wife was Margaret of Anjou, a French princess of great bravery and cleverness, but of a hard and cruel temper. Englishmen disliked her, for she was no true friend to England.

When the lords decided that York should succeed Henry, Margaret was furious, for she wished, as was quite natural, that her son Edward should be king after his father.



Warwick the King-maker. From Rous's Roll of the Earls of Warwick

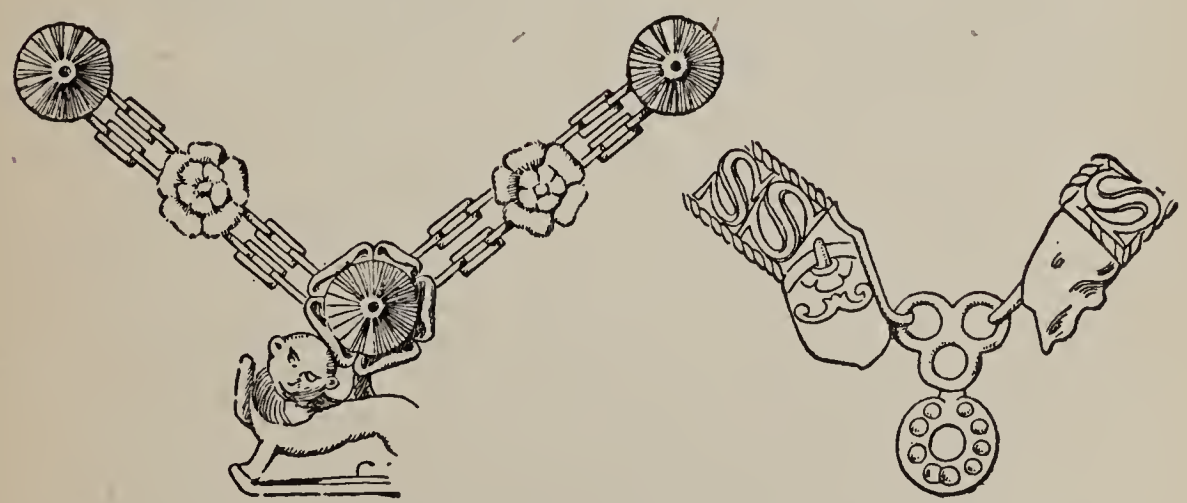
She resolved to stand up for the rights of her son. She gathered together a great army from Scotland and the north of England, and a battle was fought at Wakefield, in Yorkshire, where the

Duke of York was slain. Margaret had his head cut off, and set up on the walls of York, and upon the head was placed, in mockery, a crown of paper.

But the death of the Duke of York did not bring the war to an end, for his son Edward, a handsome young man of nineteen, stepped at once into his father's place as head of the Yorkists. He was aided by a great nobleman, the Earl of Warwick, who was afterwards known as the King-maker, for a reason that will be seen presently.

Warwick was much beloved by Englishmen, being kindly in manner, a good master to his servants, and a man who sought not so much his own greatness as the good of the realm.

Edward of York, with Warwick, hastened to London, where the citizens received him joyfully, and where the lords offered him the



York and Lancastrian Collars



THE TOWER OF LONDON

After being a palace for centuries, the Tower became a prison and place of execution

crown of England. In another battle at St. Albans Warwick was defeated, and Henry, whom he had kept as a prisoner, escaped to his own friends.

But at Towton Queen Margaret's army was utterly defeated, and 20,000 of her soldiers were slain.

Not long afterwards Henry was captured and imprisoned in the Tower of London, and Edward of York was, by aid of Warwick, crowned king as Edward IV. But he soon deeply offended many of his friends, and among them Warwick, towards whom he acted with great deceit.

The result was that Warwick, after a time, left Edward's party and went over to the side of Henry. He even became friendly with Queen Margaret, who had before this been his bitterest enemy.

Warwick for a time had to remain out of the country, but he soon returned. He was so well received by the people that Edward, feeling unable to resist him, fled to Flanders, where his sister was the wife of the reigning duke.

Then Warwick went to the Tower, whither he had himself taken King Henry as a prisoner five years before, and brought the poor king

out. Old, worn, and weary after his imprisonment, and dressed in very shabby and dirty clothes, Henry was led by the King-maker through the streets. Then Warwick had him dressed in robes fit for a king to wear, and restored him to the throne from which he had before removed him.



Civil Costume at the End of the Fifteenth Century

The End of the War

In the very next year Edward returned to England with an army, entered London in triumph, and took the king prisoner. Then

he marched out to meet Warwick, taking Henry with him.

At Barnet the armies of Lancaster and York met once more. Warwick, now the leader for the Red Rose, was killed in the battle, and his army was entirely defeated.

In the same year another battle was fought at Tewkesbury, where the White Rose was again successful. After this battle Henry VI and his son, Prince Edward, now a youth of eighteen years, were put to death.

Edward IV reigned for the rest of his life in peace. At his death his son Edward, a boy of twelve years of age, was crowned king, and Richard, Duke of Gloucester, was named Protector, until the young king was old enough to rule.



Bloody Tower, Tower of London

Tradition points out the room over the archway as the place where the children of Edward IV were murdered

Gloucester was an able man, but his name is stained

with deeds of blood which were thought horrible even in those cruel days. Pretending that he wished to keep his nephew, the young king, out of harm's way, he placed him in the Tower, and soon gave him his younger brother as a companion.



Knight in Armor of the Fifteenth Century

Before many months had passed, the two boys were dead. No one knew how they died, but a story began to be whispered that their uncle had ordered their murder.

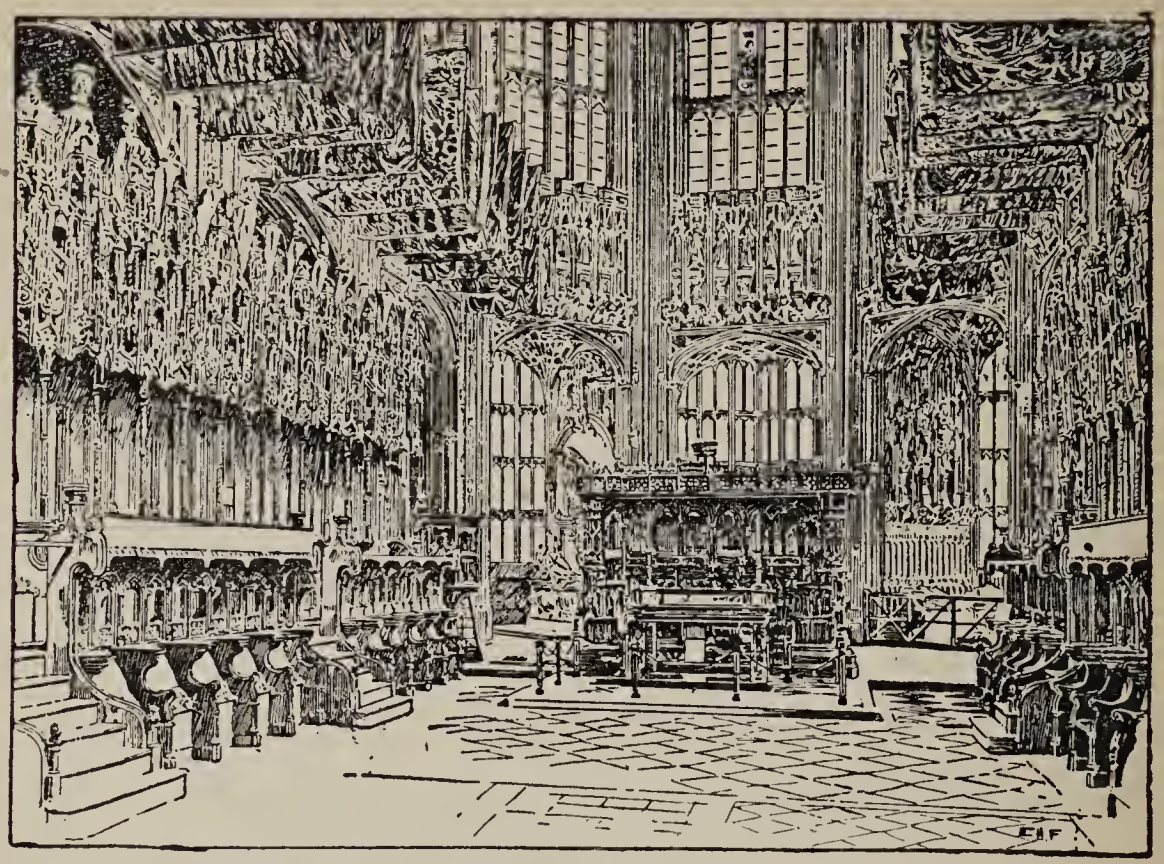
Gloucester then made himself king as Richard III. He only ruled his kingdom for two years. Then Henry, Earl of Richmond, the head of the House of Lancaster, came to England from the foreign town in which he had been living, and fought Richard in the battle of Bosworth Field. Richard fought bravely, rushing into the thick of the fight, and wearing his crown, so that none could mistake him. Several times he tried to break through to where Richmond was, to slay his enemy. At length, surrounded and overpowered, he died a soldier's death.

His crown, found in a holly bush on the battlefield, was placed on the head of Richmond, who was hailed by the army as King Henry VII. Thus ended the Wars of the Roses, with triumph for the House of Lancaster. It was a struggle between the great nobles, and the people at large took little interest in it.

Trade, reaping and sowing, went on almost as usual, while the lords and their followers were fighting out the quarrel among themselves. Many of the lords were slain; many more were ruined, for when the Yorkists were in power, they condemned the lords of the opposite party as traitors; when the House of Lancaster was in power, the Yorkists were condemned. The lands of traitors passed to the king, and thus many lords of both parties lost all their lands.

As a result, Henry VII, and the sovereigns who ruled after him, had much wealth, and became more powerful than any king of England had yet been. As we saw in the case of France, the long war left the throne stronger than it had been before.

There were now no great lords to check the power of the king. Some of the later kings used their power unwisely, and it needed an-



Henry VII's Chapel, Westminster Abbey

other war, in the reign of Charles I, to teach the lesson that the king's duty is to seek the good of the nation, and not his own pleasure.

The Guns of Barnet

Throughout the Wars of the Roses the long-bow was still the most deadly of weapons. But at Barnet and other hard-fought fields a new weapon was beginning to make itself felt. Above the shouts of battle was heard a new and dreadful sound.

In a quiet corner of an old German town

stands a pillar, and on it the stone figure of a monk. His chin resting on his hand, he seems lost in thought. Peaceful he looks, yet his thought has shaken the world.

Bertold was his name, but among his brother monks he went by the nickname of Black[1], for his hands were always grimy from working with chemicals. One day (so runs the story) he was grinding a mixture in his cell, when with a bang pestle and mortar were shot out of his hand. The mixture he had made was gunpowder.

The use of gunpowder was to change the whole art of war, and so alter the life of nations. But the change came slowly; indeed, others had been at work upon it before the German monk.

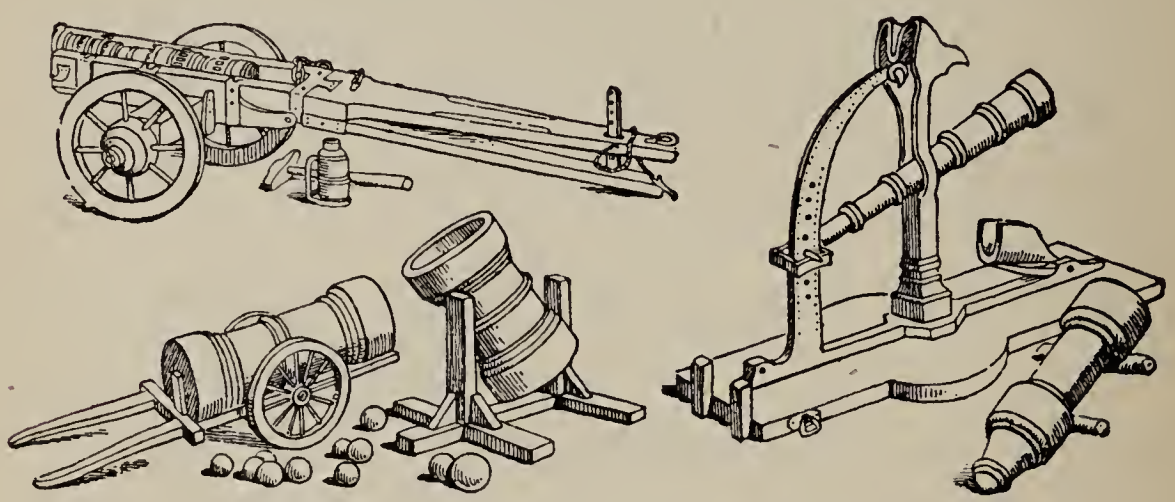
Roger Bacon, the English friar, knew the secret, and left the recipe for gunpowder in one of his books. But he was careful to hide his secret in a riddle, so that it could only be read by shifting the letters of his words till they made sense.

Long before this, the fleets of Constantinople had used a thing called Greek Fire. This mixture, when squirted from a tube, took fire

[1] Schwarz.

where it landed, doing great havoc among an enemy's ships.

For the earliest use of gunpowder, however, we must go back to China. There it seems to have been known hundreds of years before the birth of Christ. Yet it was left for Europe to use gunpowder for firing shot.



Cannon of the Fifteenth Century

The German monk, then, with his pestle and mortar, was only one of many workers in this field. It may be that his share of the work was to find out how guns should be made. We know, at any rate, that he cast guns for the city of Venice, and that when he worried the council to pay him they had him killed.

The new weapon at first did more harm to

those who used it than to those at whom it was aimed. A Scottish king, laying siege to a castle, was killed by the bursting of one of his own guns.

But the gun had come to stay, and in the Wars of the Roses it played no small part. In future, victory lay with the artillery. This put new power into the hands of the king, for only he could afford to keep up a train of artillery.



The Mosque of St. Sophia. Constantinople

THE FALL OF CONSTANTINOPLE

While the nobles of England were killing one another in the Wars of the Roses, events were happening at the other end of Europe which perhaps meant more for England in the long run than all these battles.

When the Crusaders went to the East they wondered at the wealth and learning of the Greeks of Constantinople. Within that ancient city the language of Homer and the great writers of Greece, long forgotten in the West,

was still spoken. The learned books of Greece were still studied.

But a force was pressing upon Constantinople which was one day to bring about its fall — the armies of the Turks. The Crusaders did something to check the first wave of their advance, but not for long. Other waves were forming.

We may watch these waves of war rolling in upon Europe from the heart of Asia. The Mongol race, from which they sprang, had their home in the level plains to the north of China.

When, at the hands of the fourth Crusade, the Empire at Constantinople suffered its first fall in 1204, its final doom was already preparing in Eastern Asia. A vast horde of Turkish and other tribes swept over Asia slaying men, women, and children like flies. A Mongol Empire was set up, reaching from China far into Russia.

While in England men were busy with their first Parliament, silence reigned over great tracts of this empire, for the people had been killed out. It was this grim " peace " that enabled Marco Polo to make his famous journey through the heart of Asia about 1275.

The huge Mongol Empire fell to pieces ere long. During the Hundred Years' War it was restored for a while by the dreaded Timur or Tamerlane. But when he died the empire finally broke up. Central Asia has never recovered from the havoc wrought by those Mongol hordes. Wide lands are lying waste to-day that once were full of busy towns.

Timur had met with stout foes of his own race in Asia Minor, where the Ottoman Turks had set up a State. The power of this new State quickly grew, till it spread into Europe. Yet their best warriors were not of Turkish race. Christian captives were made to give up their boys to be brought up as Turkish soldiers. Well trained and well armed, these boys grew up to be the flower of the Moslem army, and the most dreaded enemies of the Christians.

At last, in 1453, the Turkish armies closed in upon Constantinople, and after a short siege the city fell, and was given over to slaughter. As he looked upon the ruin, the conqueror is said to have murmured the words of a Persian poet: "The spider's web is the curtain in Cæsar's palace". On the dome of the ancient church of St. Sophia the crescent of the Mos-

lem took the place of the cross. The Roman Empire in the East was ended. (See map in appendix.)

The fall of Constantinople sent a shock through Europe. The Pope urged the nations to a new crusade, and one of the first books produced by the new art of printing was an appeal to Christians to make war on the Turks.

There was no crusade. Another scheme of the Pope's, however, met with better success. He sent out messengers into all the countries which the Turks had conquered, to buy up at any cost the books that had been carried away from Constantinople.

In these last troubled years scholars had been leaving the doomed city. When it fell they all had to depart, with their books and their learning, and seek new homes among the nations of the West. And so Europe had a share in the spoils.

Like seed carried by the wind, they lighted far and wide, and the seed of learning thus sown bore fruit in the age that followed.

Henry II inherited vast estates in France, to which were added those of his wife and his son's wife, until the dominions of the English king almost rivalled those of the emperor. In John's reign, however, most of these French possessions were lost. Edward III, by force of arms, recovered Aquitaine (p. 171), but lost it again. Under Henry V the English won back a great part of France, and in 1429 they had laid siege to Orleans, the key to what remained of the French kingdom, when Joan of Arc rallied the French nation and put an end to the schemes of the English kings in France.

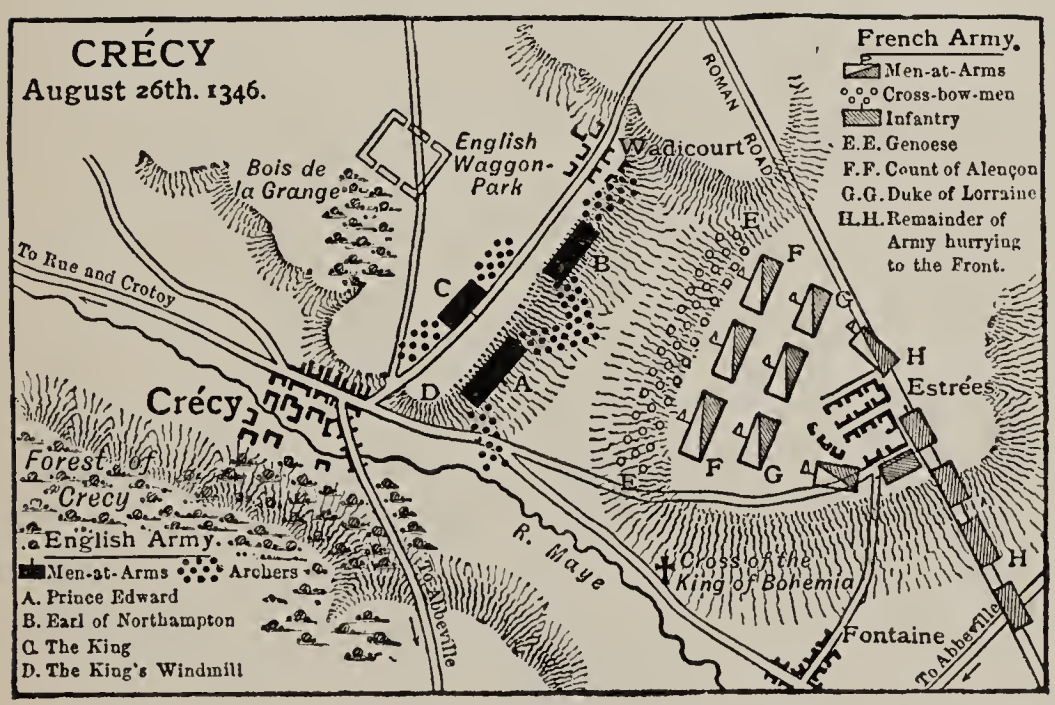
The district from the Dee to the Conway was ceded to Edward after his first campaign. Later, after the death of the two Welsh princes, the whole of Wales passed to Edward, and Parliament, sitting at Rhuddlan Castle, passed the Statute of Wales, 1284. The division of Wales into counties was begun, but it was not till the time of Henry VIII that this work was completed.

During the Wars of the Roses the north-western uplands may be said to have been arrayed against the south-western plains, the House of Lancaster drawing its strength generally from the north-west and the House of York from the south-east.

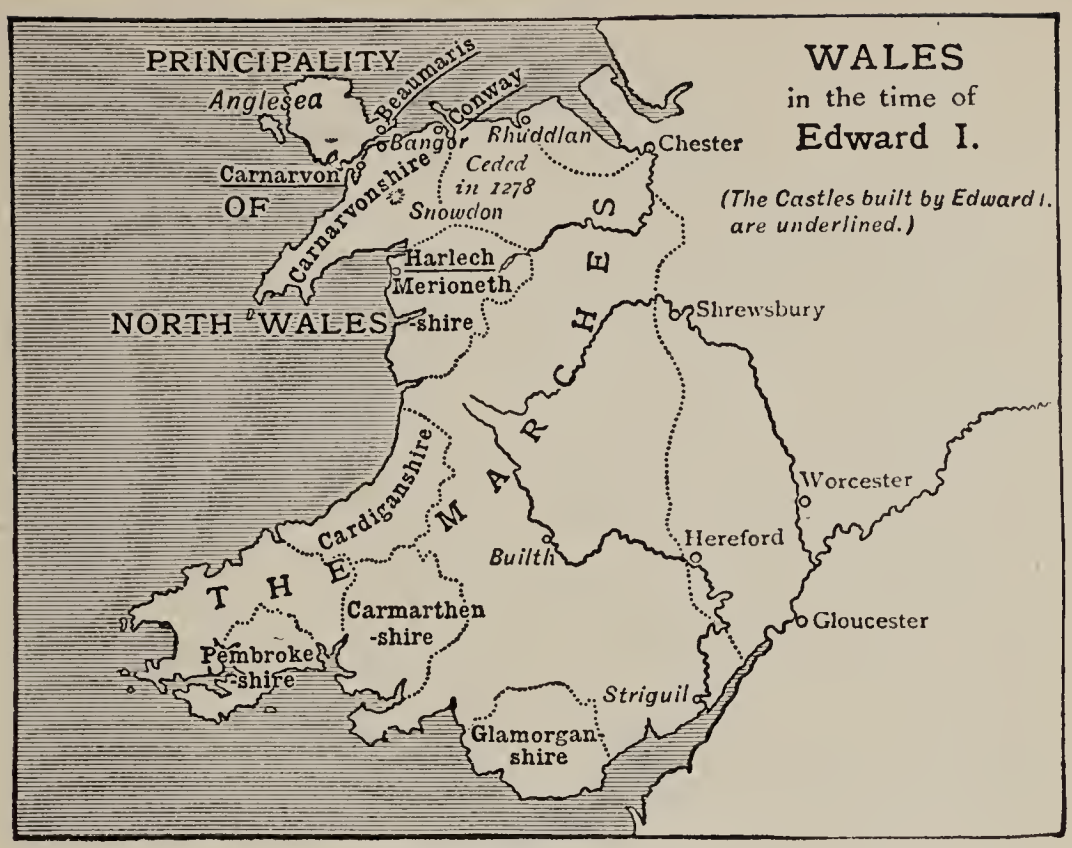

ENGLAND
London
Boulogne
Amiens
NORMANDY
Paris
Verdun
Trèves
Mentz
Worms
Spires
Ratisbon (Regensburg)
Rhine
Moselle
LORRAINE
Elbe
GERMANY
Dnieper
Dniester
Danube
Vienna
Vezelay
Loire
FRANCE
HUNGARY
FREDERICK I
Clermont
ROBERT OF FLANDERS
Rhone
Genoa
Venice
Zara
Spalato
RAYMOND OF TOULOUSE
Belgrade
CONRAD III AND LOUIS VII.
GODFREY DE BOUILLON
Semlin
Danube
Black Sea
Trebizond
Constantinople
Bosphorus
SERVIA
BULGARIA
SULTANATE OF ROUM
Toulouse
NAVARRE
CASTILE
ARAGON
PHILIP AUGUSTUS
Lucca
ITALY
Corsica
Durazzo
Dorylæum
Nicæa
Edessa (1098-1144)
Iconium
Brindisi
PAT. OF ROME
S. PETER
HUGH OF VERMANDOIS
APULIA
BOHEMOND
FREDERICK I
Aegean Sea
Sardinia
RICHARD I.
LOUIS IX.(2)
LOUIS IX.(1)
Mediterranean Sea
Ephesus
Attalia
Antioch (1098-1268)
ARMENIA
LOUIS VII.
Messina
SICILY
MARQUIS OF MONTFERRAT AND FREDERICK II.
BALDWIN
Rhodes
Cyprus
Tripolis (1109-1289)
Berytus
Sidon
Tyre
Acre
Caesarea
Jerusalem
Ascalon
CONRAD III
RICHARD I.
Crete
Tunis
PHILIP AUGUSTUS
LOUIS IX.(1)
Damietta
Cairo
Egypt
Nile
DOMINIONS OF SALADIN
Palestine
Map to illustrate
THE CRUSADES
1st. Crusade
2nd. Crusade
3rd. Crusade
4th. Crusade
5th. Crusade
6th. Crusade
7th. and 8th. Crusades
Boundary of Western Empire
Boundary of Eastern Empire, end of 12th. Century
Kingdom of Jerusalem 1099-1187


Dominions of Henry II.
Dominions ruled by Vassals.
Dominions and Dependencies of the King of France enclosed by thick black line, thus:-
IRELAND
SCOTLAND
Dublin
St. George's Channel
WALES
ENGLAND
London
English Channel
Normandy
Brittany
Anjou
Poitou
AQUITAINE
Gascony
Toulouse
Paris
R. Seine
R. Loire
R. Loire
Pyrenees
Map to show the
EMPIRE OF HENRY II.
English Miles
0 50 100 200


FRANCE
in 1360
ENGLAND
Sluys
Calais
BRABANT
FLANDERS
Ghent
Tournay
THE
EMPIRE
PONTHIEU
Crécy
HAINAULT
Cambray
Abbeville
C. La Hogue
Amiens
CHAMPAGNE
Rouen
Rheims
DUCHY OF NORMANDY
Caen
Cocherel
PARIS
La Roche Darien
Bretigny
BRITTANY
FRANCE
Hennebont
Orleans
Vannes
ANJOU
Auray
Nantes
Tours
Romorontain
BURGUNDY
Dijon
Bourges
BERRI
Poictiers
POITOU
SAVOY
La Rochelle
The Boundaries of the English Possessions are shewn by a shaded line
St Soubise
Limoges
Lyons
DUCHY OF SAINTONGE
LIMOUSIN
AUVERGNE
Auberoche
PERIGORD
DAUPHINE
Bordeaux
DUCHY OF AQUITAINE
Aiguillon
GUYENNE
Agen
ROUERGUE
Avignon
GASCONY
Toulouse
LANGUEDOC
Marseilles
Bayonne
Vittoria
KINGDOM OF NAVARRE
Carcassonne
Narbonne
Najera
Navarette
CASTILE
ARAGON


CRÉCY
August 26th. 1346.
French Army.
Men-at-Arms
Cross-bow-men
Infantry
E.E. Genoese
F.F. Count of Alençon
G.G. Duke of Lorraine
H.H. Remainder of Army hurrying to the Front.
English Waggon-Park
Bois de la Grange
Wadicourt
ROMAN ROAD
To Rue and Crotoy
Crécy
Estrées
Forest of Crecy
English Army.
Men-at-Arms
Archers
A. Prince Edward
B. Earl of Northampton
C. The King
D. The King's Windmill
R. Maye
Cross of the King of Bohemia
Fontaine
To Abbeville


ENGLAND
London
Holland
Calais
Flanders
Brabant
R. Rhine
THE EMPIRE
Agincourt
English Channel
Guernsey
Jersey
Harfleur
Rouen
Reims
Paris
R. Seine
R. Marne
Chalons
Normandy
Verneuil
Melun
Brittany
Troyes
Domremy
Pataÿ
Rouvray
Sens
Le Mans
Orleans
R. Loire
Crevant
Nantes
Tours
Duchy of Burgundy
County of Burgundy
Bourges
Nevers
Poitiers
Limoges
Lyon
R. Gironde
Bordeaux
GUIENNE
R. Rhone
R. Garonne
Avignon
Provence
Bayonne
Toulouse
Narbonne
Pyrenees
English Territory
Burgundian Territory
French Territory
Boundary of France
FRANCE
1429.
English Miles
50
100
200





The Ottoman Empire after the Fall of Constantinople. Compare with this the Sultanate of Roum and the Eastern Empire as shown on p. 253.


ENGLAND
1327-1485.
Battlefields shewn thus:-.....⚔
Perth
Dupplin⚔
Stirling
Glasgow
Edinburgh
Berwick
SCOTLAND
Halidon Hill⚔
Bamborough
Homildon⚔
Alnwick
Dumfries
Annan
Hexham
Newcastle
Carlisle
Neville's Cross⚔
Durham
Richmond
Middleham
I. of Man
Lancaster
York
Bramham Moor⚔
Towton⚔
Hull
Wakefield⚔
Pontefract
Ravenspur
Doncaster
Dublin
Anglesea
Lincoln
Chester
Nottingham
Harlech
Bloreheath⚔
Castle Rising
Stamford
Shrewsbury
Lynn
Norwich
Bosworth⚔
Leicester
Aberystwith
Ludlow
Coventry
Warwick
Northampton
Bury
Mortimer's Cross⚔
Worcester
Edgecot⚔
Cambridge
Ipswich
Hereford
Tewkesbury⚔
Stoney Stratford
Gloucester
St. Albans⚔
Pleshey
Milford Haven
Pembroke
Cirencester
Oxford
Barnet⚔
London
Berkeley
Radcot Br.
Sandwich
Bristol
Newbury
Windsor
Dartford
Canterbury
Dover
Salisbury
Winchester
Winchelsea
Calais
Southampton
Exeter
Weymouth
Portsmouth
I. of Wight
Plymouth
Dartmouth
Crecy⚔
R. Somme
Falmouth
C. La Hogue
Cherbourg
Harfleur
Rouen
Guernsey
Formigny⚔
R. Seine
Caen
Jersey
St. Lo
FRANCE

APPENDIX II

Tables

Descendants of William I down to Henry II

William I
(1066–87)
married Matilda, daughter of Baldwin, Count of Flanders:

Robert, eldest son, had Normandy and Maine.	**William II** (1087–1100)	**Henry I** (1100–35) married Matilda of Scotland and had issue	Adela married Stephen, Count of Blois, and had issue
			Stephen (1135–54).

William (drowned in 1120).	Matilda (Maud) married 1, Henry V, Emperor of Germany 2, Geoffrey, Count of Anjou and Maine, had issue

Henry II
(began House of Plantagenet)

House of Plantagenet (1154–1485) to Richard II

Henry II
(1154–89)
married Eleanor, Countess of Poitou and Aquitaine, had issue

Richard I (eldest son) (1189–99).	**John** (younger than Geoffrey) (1199–1216) m. Isabella of Angoulême.	Geoffrey (died 1186, and left son, Prince Arthur, rightful heir, murdered in 1203).

Henry III
(1216–72)
married Eleanor of Provence.

Edward I (1272–1307) married 1, Eleanor of Castile; had issue	2, Margaret of France; had son
Edward II (1307–27) married Isabella of France.	Edmund, Earl of Kent, his daughter was
Edward III (1327–77) married Philippa of Hainault.	*Joan of Kent, married Edward the Black Prince, eldest son of Edward III.

Edward (the Black Prince)
married Joan of Kent (see * above), died 1376.

Richard II
(1377–99).

Descent of the Rival Houses (York and Lancaster) from Edward III

York.—*White Rose.*

Edward III
(1327–77).
|
Lionel (third son).
|
Philippa
(m. Ed. Mortimer, Earl of March).
|
Roger.
|
Anne
(m. Richard, Earl of Cambridge).
|
Richard, Duke of York.
|
Edward IV (1461–83). | **Richard III** (1483–85).
|
Edward V
(1483).

Lancaster—*Red.*

Edward III
(1327–77).
|
John of Gaunt (fourth son)
(m. Blanche of Lancaster).
|
Henry, Duke of Hereford,
afterwards
Henry IV
(1399–1413).
|
Henry V
(1413–22).
|
Henry VI
(1422–61).

Kings of England, 1066–1485

The Norman Kings—

William I, 1066–87.
William II, 1087–1100.
Henry I, 1100–35.
Stephen, 1135–54.

The Plantagenet Kings—

Henry II, 1154–89.
Richard I, 1189–99.
John, 1199–1216.
Henry III, 1216–72.
Edward I, 1272–1307.
Edward II, 1307–27.
Edward III, 1327–77.
Richard II, 1377–99.

The Lancastrian Kings—

Henry IV, 1399–1413.
Henry V, 1413–22.
Henry VI, 1422–61.

The Yorkist Kings—

Edward IV, 1461–83.
Edward V, 1483.
Richard III, 1483–85.

PICTORIAL
TIME CHARTS

CHART

I. 900 TO 1100.

II. 1100 TO 1300.

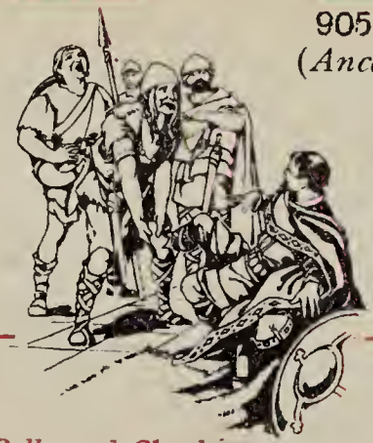
III. 1300 TO 1500.

BRITAIN AND HER NEIGHBOURS, 900–1100

A.D. 900

ALFRED THE GREAT DIED, 901.

905. ROLLO THE NORTHMAN (*Ancestor of William the Conqueror*) WINS NORMANDY.



Rollo and Charles the Simple

925

STRONG SAXON KINGS IN ENGLAND, 901-75.



Saxon Tower, Sompting Church, Sussex

950

962. OTTO I CROWNED EMPEROR AT ROME.



Northmen at Sea

975

ETHELRED THE UNREADY, 979-1016.

980. GREENLAND DISCOVERED BY NORTHMEN.

1000

DANES OVERRUN ENGLAND.

CHRISTIANITY IN ICELAND.
GREAT SCHOOLS FOUNDED.

A.D. 900 925 950 975 1000

CANUTE, DANISH KING OF ENGLAND,
1017–35.

1016. CANUTE, KING OF DENMARK.

1025



EDWARD THE CONFESSOR,
1042–66.

WILLIAM, DUKE OF NORMANDY BORN, 1027.

1035. CANUTE, KING OF NORWAY.
WILLIAM, DUKE OF NORMANDY.

1050

BATTLE OF HASTINGS, 1066.

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR
REIGNED 1066–87.



POPE HILDEBRAND
(GREGORY VII),
1073–85.

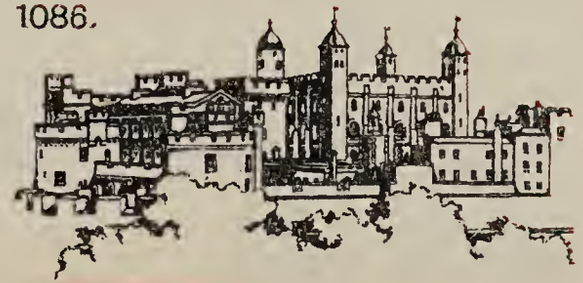
1075



A Crusader

DOMESDAY BOOK, 1086.

TOWER
OF LONDON.



1077. EMPEROR GOES TO CANOSSA.

1095. FIRST CRUSADE.

1100

BRITAIN AND HER NEIGHBOURS, 1100–1300

A.D. 1100

HENRY I REIGNED 1100-35.

CHRISTIAN KINGDOM AT JERUSALEM.



Statue of Godfrey de Bouillon, first King of Jerusalem

1118. KNIGHTS TEMPLARS FOUNDED.

1125

STEPHEN REIGNED 1135-54.

1150

HENRY II REIGNED 1154-89.

DEATH OF BECKET, 1170.

IRELAND ANNEXED, 1172.



Transept of Martyrdom, Canterbury

GROWTH OF FREE CITIES.

1175

1180. HENRY II'S FRENCH DOMINIONS AT THEIR WIDEST.

RICHARD I REIGNED 1189-99.

JOHN REIGNED 1199-1216.

1191. CRUSADE OF RICHARD I.

1200

GREAT CHARTER, 1216.

HENRY III REIGNED
1216-72.

1225

STEEL YARD IN LONDON, 1232.





Sealing the Charter

1204-61. LATIN KINGDOM
AT CONSTANTINOPLE.



Franciscan Friar

1225

1226. SAINT FRANCIS DIED.

1241. HANSA LEAGUE.

1250

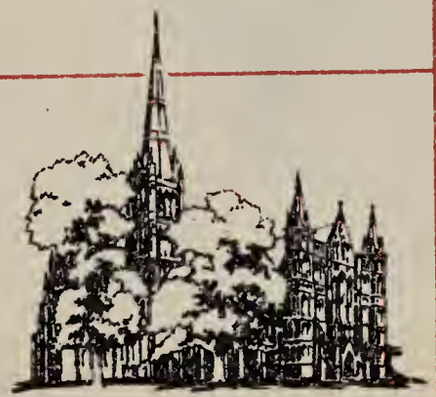
1250. CRUSADE OF ST. LOUIS.

SIMON DE MONTFORT'S
PARLIAMENT, 1265.

1265. ROGER BACON'S "GREAT WORK".

1275

EDWARD I REIGNED
1272-1307.



WALES CONQUERED, 1282.

1300

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL.

MARCO POLO IN CHINA,
1275-95.

1275



Tartar Hut Wagons

1300

BRITAIN AND HER NEIGHBOURS, 1300–1500

A.D. 1300

BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN, 1314.

1304. POPES REMOVE TO AVIGNON.

1315. BATTLE OF MORGARTEN (SWISS FREEDOM).

DANTE LIVED 1265-1321.

1325

HUNDRED YEARS' WAR BEGINS, 1337.

BATTLE OF CRECY, 1346.



Genoese Cross-bowman

1341. PETRARCH RECEIVES LAUREL CROWN.

BLACK DEATH, 1349.

1347. RIENZI TRIBUNE AT ROME.



1350

WICLIF'S BIBLE, 1356-84.

BATTLE OF POITIERS, 1356.

1358. FRENCH PEASANTS' REVOLT (JACQUERIE).



Young King Richard addressing the rebels

1375

1377. POPES RETURN TO ROME FROM AVIGNON. (ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA.)

WAT TYLER AND THE PEASANTS' REVOLT, 1381.

VENICE AT THE HEIGHT OF HER POWER.

1400

CHAUCER LIVED 1340-1400.

A.D. 1300 1325 1350 1375 1400



BATTLE OF AGINCOURT,
1415.

Before Agincourt

1425



1429. JOAN OF ARC
SAVES ORLEANS.

1425

1450

1453. FALL OF



CONSTANTINOPLE.

Mosque of S. Sophia

Constantinople

1450

1475

WARS OF THE ROSES,
1455–85.



1475

One of Columbus's Ships

1500

HENRY VII REIGNED 1485–1509.

1492. COLUMBUS
DISCOVERS AMERICA.

1500

NOTABLE DATES

901. Alfred the Great died.

905. Rollo the Northman wins Normandy.

1017. Canute, Danish King of England.

1066. Norman Conquest.

1077. Emperor goes to Canossa.

1095. First Crusade.

1170. Death of Thomas Becket.

1172. Ireland annexed by Henry II.

1191. Crusade of Richard I.

1216. Great Charter.

1226. Saint Francis of Assisi died.

1265. Simon de Montfort's Parliament.

1282. Wales conquered by Edward I.

1314. Battle of Bannockburn (Scottish freedom).

1315. Battle of Morgarten (Swiss freedom).

1346. Battle of Crecy (Hundred Years' War).

1349. Black Death.

1377. Pope returns from Avignon to Rome.

1381. Wat Tyler and the Peasants' Revolt.

1429. Joan of Arc saves Orleans.

1453. Constantinople taken by the Turks.

1485. Richard III killed at Bosworth. End of Wars of the Roses.

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